



The Islamic Shashantantra Andolon stages a sit-in on the Johnson Road in the old part of the city yesterday, causing a massive traffic congestion in the area. It also submitted a memorandum to the office of the deputy commissioner there to press for its demand.

DHAKA TODAY

Drama festival

Dhaka Theatre Mancha organises a week-long drama festival to mark its 15th founding anniversary. On the inaugural day, Gharjami will be staged. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium. Time: 4.30pm.

CD launch

The launching ceremony of a CD titled 'Shimuler Gaan', organised by World Music, will be held with poet Shamsur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segun Bagicha. Time: 3.00pm.

Recitation

Kanthakalam, a literary organisation, will hold a session of recitation of poems on peace and humanity. Venue: Seminar room of the Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen three films titled 'Mississippi Masala' 'Omen 4 the Awakening' and 'After Sex'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Fair

Thai Embassy in collaboration with Mina Bazar Bangladesh organises a week-long fair of diversified products with Ambassador Pithak Phromphubha as chief guest. Venue: Mina Bazar premises, Satmasjid Road. Time: 11.00am.

Prize giving ceremony

The annual prize giving ceremony and cultural function of South Point School and College will be held. Venue: T & T field, Mohakhali. Time: 9.30am.

Ananda mela

The opening ceremony of a two-day Ananda Mela, organised by Officers' Club, Dhaka will be held with Women and Children Affairs Minister Begum Khurshid Jahan as chief guest. Venue: Club premises, Baily Road. Time: 10.00am.

ICT conference

An international conference on 'Applications of ICT in government, education and healthcare systems' will be held with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: NEC auditorium, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 10.30am.

Roundtable

A roundtable on 'Transit and transhipment and their economic implications', organised by Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA), will be held. Venue: BILIA auditorium, Dhannamdi. Time: 10.00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organises a seminar to present a report on 'International Environmental Treaty Obligations'. Venue: BIDS conference room, Aargaon. Time: 2.00pm.

Inauguration

The inauguration of a web-database on 'Banks and Financial Institutions' built by The University Campus, will be held with Syed Monjur Elahi, president of Bangladesh Association of Banks as chief guest. Venue: Campus auditorium, 33 Topkhana Road. Time: 3.00pm.

Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony of the 48th conference of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) will be held with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: IEB auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

AL rally

Bangladesh Mohila Awami League will hold a rally demanding the increase of women seats in parliament and direct election to them. Venue: In front of 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 3.30pm.

DRU rally

DRU President Alamgir Hossain, DUJ (Saju-Shaheed) President Elahi Newaz Saju, DUJ (Jalil-Farook) President Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, DRU Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Khokon and Shahiduzzaman of the New Age conducted the election as election commission.

Public Admin Assoc formed

Academy Film Society will screen two American films titled 'Gosford Park' and 'Autumn in New York'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Drama

As part of a week-long drama festival organised by Dhaka Theatre Mancha, two dramas titled 'Laili Majnu' and 'Birsamunda' will be staged. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium. Time: 11.00am and 6.30pm.

Public Admin Assoc formed

A new organisation styled 'Bangladesh Public Administration Association (BPAA)' has been floated by the former students of public administration department of different universities.

The association has also formed a 45-member executive committee for a two-year term unanimously.

Director General of Local Government Division Shariful Alam and Director of BCS Administration Academy Dr Zakirul Islam have been made president and general secretary says a press release.

Mahmudul Haq, Kabiruzzaman, Alamgir Hossain, Waliullah, Lutfur Rahman, Ataur Rahman and Shahidul Islam have been made vice-presidents.

ANM Bazlur Rahman, Fazlul Haq, Nurul Kabir Siddiqui, Abu Zafar Badru Hasan and Allama Siddiqui have been made joint secretaries.

Other office-bearers are Abdul

Kanchan, Harun elected CRAB president, secy

UNB, Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

Fakhrul Alam Kanchan of the daily Jugantor and Harun-ur-Rashid of the daily Sangbad have been elected president and general secretary of Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh (CRAB) for a two-year term.

The election was held at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium yesterday. A total of 131 voters, out of 136, cast their votes.

The other elected office-bearers are Abul Khair - vice-president; Akhteruzzaman Lavlu - joint secretary; Israt Hossain Esa - treasurer; Abu Saleh Akon - organising secretary; Dev Dulal Mitra - office secretary; Russell Akhter - sports and cultural secretary; Sarwar Alam - information and research secretary; Mohammad Momin Hossain - social welfare secretary; and Tomal Mehedi - publicity and publication secretary.

The executive members are Osman Gani Babul, Ehsan Pervez Tuhin, Shamsus Salehin and SM Abdul Hossain.

However, Mizan Malik and Abdul Latif Rana who vied for member post were tied at 61 votes each.

DRU President Alamgir Hossain, DUJ (Saju-Shaheed) President Elahi Newaz Saju, DUJ (Jalil-Farook) President Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, DRU Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Khokon and Shahiduzzaman of the New Age conducted the election as election commission.

The executive members are Dr

Moslehuddin Tareq, Khoda Box Chowdhury, Golam Mostafa, Dr

Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, Dr

Akhter Hossain, Badru Chowdhury, Jahanara Begum Lina, Rehana Parveen Hasi, Kabir Mohammad, Ashraf Alam, Mahfuzul Haq, Mashru Rahman, Rashed Sarwar, Mahbub Hossain,

Anwarul Karim, Tariqul Islam, Rafiqul Islam, Shammi Akhter, Saleh Shibli, Abdul Qader, Billah

Hossain, Abdul Malek, Abdul Bari, Roushan Ara and Dr Parveen Banu.

Falling masonry injures 3 workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Falling masonry of an under-construction hospital building injured three workers of an auto-mechanic workshop on Green Road in Dhannamdi yesterday.

Witnesses said Kamal Hossain, 25, Shahidul, 38, and Helal, 33, who worked for W Autos, were wounded when a chunk of bricks fell from the fifth floor scaffolding of the building, bursting the workshop's tin roof at about 10.30am.

12 parliament seats for disabled demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Physically challenged people yesterday demanded reservation of 12 seats in parliament so that they can participate in the country's law-making process.

They said as the ruling four-party alliance government has decided to expand parliament by adding 15 seats, there should not be any difficulty to meet their demand.

They made the demand at a press conference organised jointly by Trinomul Protibandhi Janogoshti (TRJ) (Disabled people at grassroots level) and Action on Disability and Development (ADD), two non-government organisations working for the disabled.

We are demanding reservation of seats because the country's election system requires huge financial involvement which is beyond our means, they added.

The speakers demanded one male and one female representative from each of the six divisions.

"Physically challenged people have no representative in parliament to raise their issues and this is one of the major reasons for our deprivation from many facilities we deserve," said visually challenged Supreme Court lawyer Mosharraf Hossain Talukder.

He said 80 handicapped people participated in the immediate-past union parishad (UP) elections and of them, 16 were elected. They are now working in their respective

Kamal was admitted to nearby South Asian Hospital with head injuries and the others were given first-aid treatment.

Dhannamdi police arrested guard Nazimuddin Chowdhury at the construction site, but the contractor and workers of the 10-storey building fled.

Locals alleged that the under-construction building did not have any caution sign around it for public safety.



PHOTO: STAR
The tin roof of an auto-mechanic workshop was damaged severely when a chunk of bricks fell on it from the scaffold at the fifth floor of an adjacent under-construction building in Green Road area of the city yesterday.

Call for effective measures to ensure contraceptive security

UNB, Dhaka

Experts yesterday felt the need for proper financial and technical preparations to keep up the success of family planning and meet the future demand of contraceptives, which is expected to double in 2015.

The country's 54 percent fertile couples are now using various types of contraceptive and 43 percent of them prefer modern methods, they said while exchanging views with the newsmen.

According to them, the country will need contraceptives worth Tk 350 crore every year from the year 2015 against the present demand of contraceptives worth Tk 190 crore as the family planning methods are gaining popularity.

The Deliver Bangladesh, one of the partners of National Integrated Population and Health Programme (NIPHP), funded by USAID, organised

the meeting at the Jatiya Press Club.

Bangladesh is widely considered a success story in the world in family planning, with a rise in contraceptive prevalence from eight percent to 54 since its independence and a decline in the total fertility rate from 6.3 to 3.3, the speakers told the newsmen.

Chief of Party of Deliver Bangladesh Mohammad Nurul Hossain, Director of IEM of Directorate of Family Planning Azimpur Dr Sharadindra Dey and Programme Coordinator of Bangladesh Centre for Communication Programme (BCCP) Maruf Kabir addressed the meeting.

Jatiya Press Club President Reazuddin Ahmed attended the programme as chief guest.

They said the increasing popularity of contraceptives has resulted in a growing gap between the demand and the available government and donors' support for contraceptive procurement.

Nurul Hossain stressed the need for money for buying contraceptives and the family planning programme is completely dependent on donors, but the flow of their funds is gradually shrinking. So, the government needs to come up to provide support to meet the future demand," said Nurul Hossain.

He also suggested some measures, including inspiring the people to buy contraceptives and reaching contraceptives to the poor.

"The gap between the projected cost of contraceptives and the donors' funding will hit \$49 million in 2010. So, alternative measures should be taken to tackle the challenge," Nurul Islam said.



British Minister for International Development Gareth Thomas visited the HIV Programme of Care Bangladesh at Tangail yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country with chances of rain or thunderstorms accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places over Dhaka, Rangpur, Khulna and Sylhet divisions during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

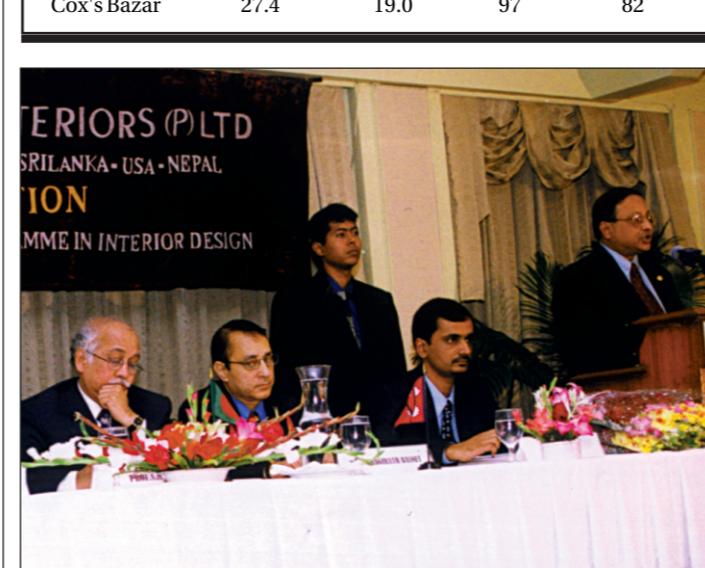
Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country in the morning, Met office said, adding that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 28.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and the lowest of 11.6 degree at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.37 pm today and rises at 6.43 am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.1	15.0	99	47
Chittagong	28.8	18.0	84	57
Rajshahi	21.6	13.2	100	90
Khulna	25.7	16.2	92	74
Barisal	26.8	14.3	96	83
Sylhet	26.2	13.0	83	66
Cox's Bazar	27.4	19.0	97	82



The eighth convocation of Dhaka campus of the Exterior-Interiors, an interior design institute, was held at Sheraton Hotel in the city recently. Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. SMA Faiz attended the programme as chief guest.