

'Politics of division hinders progress'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
 Bangladesh Bar Council President Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud has said politics of division is hindering the progress of the country.
 Speaking as chief guest at a reception at Chittagong Press Club (CPC) yesterday, he said this division of politics is largely responsible for corruption and terrorism.
 Barrister Rakanuddin said two major political parties must discard this type of politics to lead the nation towards the path of prosperity. He said the August 21 grenade attack on Awami League rally has underlined the importance of the politics of unity to help end this type of menace.
 The reception was accorded to

one academic and two journalists for their significant contributions in their respective fields.
 They were Prof Shayesta Khan, founding principal of Chittagong Metropolitan Commerce College, AZM Omar, assistant editor of a local daily the Purbokone, and Samir Bhattacharya, assistant editor of another local daily the Azadi.
 Besides, 12 children of Chittagong journalists, who made outstanding results in SSC and HSC examinations this year, were given crests.
 Presided over by CPC President Abu Sufian, the function was also addressed by Chittagong Union of Journalists President Mostaq Ahmed.



Bangladesh Mahila Awami League organised a milad mahfil at the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday in memory of those killed in the August 21 grenade attack.



PHOTO: STAR

ANTI-TERROR FIGHT Pakistan asks US for more equipment

AFP, Islamabad
 Pakistan sought more helicopters and air surveillance equipment from the United States during two days of bilateral counter-terrorism talks ending here yesterday, a senior Pakistani official said.
 "We requested more help in the form of air assets, surveillance and communications and received a positive response from the US," the official who participated in the talks, told AFP. He asked not to be named.
 The meeting of the Pakistan-US Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Law Enforcement was the third since it was set up in 2002, a year after Islamabad joined the US-led war on terror and helped

oust Afghanistan's Taliban rulers.
 The official said the talks focussed on ways to bolster Pakistani security forces' capacity to pursue the campaign against al-Qaeda-linked terrorism and deny sanctuary to Taliban rebels.
 Pakistan's top interior ministry official Tariq Mahmood led the Islamabad delegation that included foreign ministry and finance officials.
 The US delegation was led by Joseph Cofer Black, head of the counter-terrorism office in Secretary of State Colin Powell's office, and included senior narcotics, law enforcement and justice officials.

2,500-year-old hidden tomb found in Egypt

AP, Cairo, Egypt
 Egypt's antiquities chief on Thursday revealed a 2,500-year-old hidden tomb under the shadow of one of Giza's three giant pyramids, containing 400 pinkie-finger-sized statues and six coffin-sized niches carved into granite rock.
 They found a single gene controls the sense of smell in fruit flies and probably other insects.
 "We need better insect repellents to use as weapons against the spread of infectious disease," said Leslie Vosshall, head of the Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Behavior at New York's Rockefeller University.
 "This finding has a direct applied potential," Vosshall added in statement. "Insects are the primary vectors for malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, and West Nile encephalitis, and they locate human hosts largely through their exquisitely sensitive olfactory systems."
 Vosshall and colleagues bred fruit flies that lack a gene known as Or63b.

Writing in the journal Neuron, they said the tiny flies had no sense of smell.
 The Or63b gene is found in a variety of insect species, including mosquitoes, the researchers said. It may be possible to design a compound that blocks the gene.
 "Most insect repellents are based on trial and error, or folk remedies," Vosshall said. "Now we have a scientific, rational basis for designing insect repellents."
 All creatures that smell detect molecules from the object they are smelling. Specialized cells detect these molecules and in humans and other similar animals they are at the top of the nasal passages.
 In the fruit fly these detector cells are on the antennae and the maxillary palp, an appendage near the mouth.
 The cells have receptors, or molecular doorways, designed to attach to the molecules. Many are designed to detect different smells, such as bananas or sweaty feet.

GOODS TRAIN DERAILS Dhaka-Ctg rail link snapped for eight hours

UNB, Feni
 Three bogies of a Dhaka-bound goods train from Chittagong derailed here early yesterday, cutting off train communication of the port city with Dhaka and Sylhet for eight hours.
 Official sources said the bogies went out of the track at about 2:30am, just after it left Fazilpur Station.
 Three passenger trains, including Turna Nishitha and Udayan, remained stranded at Feni Station while Dhaka Mail, Meghna Express, Mohanagar Prabhati at different points.
 Train services on the routes resumed at about 10.00am after the bogies were salvaged by a relief train.

ATTACK ON HASINA AL seeks help of Asian political parties for international probe

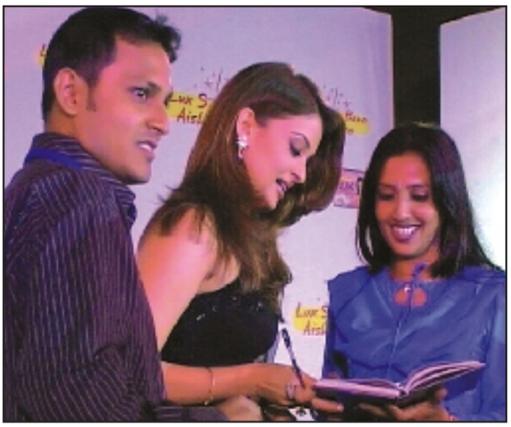
UNB, Dhaka
 Awami League International Affairs Secretary Syed Abul Hossain MP yesterday called on the leaders of Asian political parties to strongly condemn the attempt on the life of opposition leader and AL President Sheikh Hasina.
 "The dastardly attempt on the life of Sheikh Hasina came precisely at a time when she initiates steps to unite the pro-liberation, secular and democratic forces in the country," he told the first session of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Beijing.
 He also urged the leaders of political parties of Asia to create world opinion for instituting a credible international inquiry committee to bring the perpetrators to book, according to a faxed message received in Dhaka.
 The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has organised the three-day international conference attended by 300 representatives of different political parties from 34 Asian countries.

Huda blasts AL's 'destructive' politics

BSS, Dhaka
 Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday criticised the main opposition Awami League for its 'destructive politics', saying that this party does not want welfare of the people.
 The AL has recently destroyed public property by setting fire to the inter-city train 'Subarna Express' and a BRTC double-decker and also damaged many public and private transports, he alleged.
 Huda was addressing a public meeting where a number of AL leaders and workers joined the BNP at Shinepukur in Dohar.
 Local AL leader Khaleque Member and Malek Mollah led the group of defectors.

Iraqi police seal off Najaf and Kufa

AFP, Najaf
 Iraqi police sealed off the shrine city of Najaf and neighboring Kufa amid fears of fresh violence yesterday, a week after radical Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr ended his bloody revolt against US troops.
 Police vehicles blocked off the main road and officers fired shots in the air as people approached checkpoints ahead of Friday afternoon prayers, the major day of worship in Islam.
 "We are afraid of violence after prayers in Kufa," a Sadr stronghold, one officer said.
 In another sign of the lingering tensions in Najaf, around 250 locals earlier demonstrated to demand Sadr and his Mehdi Army leave the holy city, whose centre was devastated by weeks of bloody fighting with US troops.
 An AFP correspondent on the scene said the small procession marched for an hour towards the Imam Ali shrine, whose surroundings were the scene of intense combat between Sadr's militia and US troops until last week.



Indian film star Aishwarya Rai with two winners of the Lux contest.

Lux winners spend day with Aishwarya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Ten Bangladeshis, who won the Lux contest 'Ayesha Koro Aishwarya'r Moto' (Live like Aishwarya), spent a day with noted Indian film star Aishwarya in Mumbai recently, says a press release.
 Apart from meeting with Aishwarya in person at a special party, the winners were facilitated at a glitzy evening where they were gifted sari from Aishwarya's preferred designer Neeta Lulla.
 The winners were also taken to buy new wardrobe worth Tk 70,000 in keeping with their new looks thanks to makeup by Michelle Tung, Aishwarya's favourite make-up.
 The unique contest from Lux gave its consumers the opportunity to experience the life of Aishwarya Rai, thereby bringing to life the Lux brand proposition "Aami Star Hoye Jai."
 The winners of the Lux contest were chosen on the merits of their answer to the question "Why do Aishwarya and Lux make a star pair?"
 An elite panel of judges, comprising the editors Shahadat Chowdhury of Anandadhara, Motiur Rahman of Prothom Alo, Abed Khan of Bhorer Kagoj and Shafiq Rehman of Jai Jai Din, selected the winners.

Robbers kill shop owner in Cox's Bazar

BSS, Cox's Bazar
 Armed robbers stormed into a shop and killed its owner at Khunia Palang village under Ramu upazila of the district early yesterday.
 Police and locals said a gang of 12 entered the shop by breaking open its door, slaughtered shop owner Kalim Ullah, 45, and took away Tk 40,000 in cash and other valuables.
 Police recovered the body in the morning and sent it to the local hospital for autopsy.
 A case was filed with Ramu Police Station.

Cotton mill gutted

UNB, Gazipur
 At least 10 people were injured when a fire ripped through a cotton mill at Muladi village in Sreepur Upazila yesterday.
 An electrical short circuit sparked off the fire that burned down the Ekota Composite Mill.
 The blaze started at around 8:15am, forcing the panic-stricken workers to come out of the mill, said the mill authorities.
 Ten people were injured either in stampede or while trying to extinguish the blaze. Two of them were identified as Liton and Monowar.



Gonosanghati Andolon held a rally at Muktagang in the city yesterday to mark its second founding anniversary with a call to wage united movement against fanatics.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka
 Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over the country with moderately heavy falls at one or two places during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.
 Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period, Met Office said.
 Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 24.2 degrees at Rangpur.
The sun sets in the capital at 6:13pm today and rises at 5:41am tomorrow.
 The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.7	26.0	89	87
Chittagong	29.8	26.0	90	82
Rajshahi	34.6	27.0	82	96
Khulna	33.0	26.6	93	81
Barisal	30.5	25.0	96	90
Sylhet	31.6	24.6	83	81
Cox's Bazar	31.2	26.0	86	92

Date extended

UNB, Dhaka
 The date for submitting application for one-year diploma in journalism under National University, offered by Bangladesh Institute of Communication Studies and Public Relations (BICSPR), has been extended up to September 7.
 Interested students are requested to collect application forms from the Institute office at 257/8 Elephant Road, said a press release yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show
 Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'Sommersby' (1993) and 'Poison Ivy' (1992). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Meeting
 A consultation meeting on 'The World Bank and the question of immunity', organised by The Innovators, will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.30am.

Jubo Dal meet
 A joint executive committee meeting of the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal will be held, with its President and Advisor to the commerce ministry Md Barkatullah Bulu in the chair. Venue: Bhasani auditorium, Naya Paltan. Time: 4.00pm.

Seminar
 A seminar will be held to mark the founding anniversary of Bongio Muslim Sahitya Samity. Venue: 5/5 G a z n a v i R o a d , Mohammadpur. Time: 4.00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Rotary Dhaka Central
 Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 12.00 noon.

Rotary Dhaka North West
 Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5.30pm.

Photography exhibition
 The opening ceremony of a solo photography exhibition titled 'Aamar Chhabi Tola' by Javed M Khan Rumi will be held. Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery, Dhanmondi. Time: The exhibition will remain open till September 25 from 9.00am to 12.00 noon and from 5.00pm to 8.00pm daily.



Namaz-e-jezanah of Rafiqul Islam Khondker Nasim, training director of PIB, was held at the Jatiya Press Club

PHOTO: STAR