Assess extent of crop damage in 10 days

Agriculture minister asks officials

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar yesterday asked officials concerned to assess within 10 days the extent of crop damage. particularly of transplanted aman, caused by heavy downpour last week

The farmers had transplanted the aman seedlings after the devastating flood in August.

He also asked them to identify the farmers affected by the second spell of natural calamity after the August flooding and who have been provided with free seeds or seedlings and fertilizers

"They (second time affected ones) will be entitled to get free farm inputs again for another crop," he told a meeting with officials from different line organisations under his minis-

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was present at the meeting at the ministry to review the post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme.

Officials apprised the meeting that the damage due to rainfall would not be much as the late (local) variety of transplanted aman now on the fields have their self-sustaining capacity to keep alive for 7-8

They noted that some pockets in Magura and Faridpur have

In some areas the farmers

apprised the agriculture field officials that the rain had come as a blessing because it helped them irrigate their land.

The minister reminded the officials of resuming implementation of the rehabilitation programme for 12 crops to be cultivated until December. Rehabilitation activities had been stalled for about a week due to the rain.

He thought that nothing could be done for damaged aman in some places because the season was running out.

The meeting also revised up the allocation for rehabilitation programme from Tk 158 crore to Tk 163 crore, as the additional amount would be spent for importing wheat seeds.

Earlier, it was estimated that the stock of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) would be enough to supply the required

The meeting was told that some early-planted Mash Kalai (pulse) and vegetables had been damaged. The government assisted vegetable farming has not yet started.

The government had identified 27 lakh small and marginal farmers to provide them with free seeds or seedlings and fertilizers to recover the crop losses due to devastating flood

Of them, some 4.30 lakh were provided with aman seeds or seedlings and fertilizers.



Wim Wenders Retrospective

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen three films made by German filmmaker Wim Wenders. The films are 'Until the End of the World' (1991), 'The End of Violence' (1997) and 'The Million Dollar Hotel' (2000). Venue: Goethe-Institut, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pn, 5.40pm and 7.45pm.

East European films

Dhaka Film Society will screen two films from East European countries. The films are 'Electra My Love (1774), and 'The Odyssey' (1999). Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm and 6.00pm

Spanish film

Academy Film Society will screen a Spanish film titled 'Thesis' (1995). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

IUB seminar

Independent University of Bangladesh will hold a seminar on 'Press Freedom' with David S Jackson, director of Voice of America as guest speaker. Venue: University campus, 14/2-A Baridhara North Road. Time:

FBCCI seminar

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry will hold a seminar on 'Development of tourism industry in Bangladesh' with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: FBCCI conference room, Motijheel. Time: 3.00pm

Convention

A national grassroots convention on water and sanitation will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuivan as chief guest. Venue: Institution of Engineers' auditorium. Time: 9.30am.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Islam and labour policy' will be held with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 5.00pm.

Discussion

Weekly discussion meeting of Muldhara, a forum of writers, iournalists and artists, will be held. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.



The Post Graduate Doctors Association (PGDA) stages a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding setting up of Royal College and Plab Centre in the country

Establish Royal College & Plab Centre: PGDA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Post Graduate Doctors Association (PGDA) yesterday demanded of the government to establish a Royal College and Plab Centre in the country.

The demand was made from a rally on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University

campus in the city. Addressing the rally, Dr Raquibul Islam Litu, secretary general of the association, said: "It is very unfortunate that we do not have a examination centre of Royal College here although our neighbouring countries like Nepal, India and Pakistan have the same.

"Once established, many young physicians would be able to apply directly for jobs in countries like the UK, Australia and other countries in the West." he added.

The association leaders also called upon all post graduate doctors to join a bigger movement for the establishing the examination

Association President Prof Kazi Shahidul Alam, Vice-president Dr Tarique Mehdi Parvez, and Dr Ariful Islam Joarder also spoke at the rally. Later, the association brought out a procession that ended in front of the High Court. Some 700 young

1,682 more held

UNB, Dhaka

doctors took part in it

Police arrested some 1,682 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday. During the period, the law enforc-

ers recovered 13 firearms, four other weapons and 24 bullets and filed eight cases against 16 people under the Arms Act, said an official

Gowhar Jamil's anniversary of death today



Today is the 24 th death anniversary of noted artiste and dance director Gowhar Jamil. says a press release Onthe

occasion, Jago Art Centre organises a milad mahfil after Asr prayers at its auditorium at 55, Shawmibag

Relatives, friends, students and guardians of the school and admirers are requested to attend the milad and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

MS Haque



anniversary of MS Haque, former vicepresident of the central commit-Bangladesh Trade Union

Today is the

seventh death

Centre and vice-president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Chittagong District. MS Haque, one of the founders

of Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, died on September 21 in 1997 at the On the occasion, Qurankhawni,

milad and doa mahfil will be held at his residence in Chittagong after Asr prayers today.

Hafizuddin Master The third death



anniversary of Hafizuddin Master, father of Advocate Mizanur Rahman, will be observed today, says a press

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his Dhakhin Khan (Chalabond) resi-

Take steps to ratify **Cedaw fully**

Women's rights activists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

pledged to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw) fully, no step has so far been taken in this regard, said women's rights activists on Sunday.

Reluctance to ratify the convention in full is tantamount to disregard for the constitution, they said at a discussion Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organised to mark the Cedaw Day (September 3) in the

city.

They also demanded eliminaagainst against tion of discrimination against women in the citizenship law.

"The women and children affairs minister at the 31st session of the UN committee on Cedaw pledged that she would take steps to withdraw reservation about articles 2 and 16/1 (C) of the Cedaw, but we don't know of any development in this regard," said Hamida Hossain of Ain O Salish

Poor performance of the government delegation on the UN status on July 9 tarnished the country's image, said Aeysha Khanam of Bangladesh Mahila

Still the government is not doing enough to ensure women's equal rights to citizenship, inheritance marriage and quardianship of children, she added.

That the policymakers and top officials themselves do not have oneness with the very spirit of the convention is a major obstacle to its full ratification, said Salma Khan, a member of UN committee on Cedaw.

"The Cedaw is not only a convention but an instrument for a comprehensive development," she

Justice KM Sobhan and Barrister Tania Amir also spoke at the discussion presided over by Mahila Parishad President Hena



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over the country till 6.00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 23.5 degree Celsius at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:56pm today and rises at 5:48am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

City/Town Temperature Humidity in in Celsius percentage Morning Evening 32.4 Dhaka 25.6 Chittagong 32.0 25.5 83 77 76 84 76 73 77 79 Raishahi 33.6 25.7 35.5 26.2 Khulna 82 Barisal 32.4 25.5 76 85 32.5 25.5 Sylhet Cox's Bazar

Business leaders react

FROM PAGE 1

"Such imprudent suggestions and calls have shocked and upset every citizen of Bangladesh," the business leaders said.

major cities and towns yesterday were

"The history of economic cooperation in South Asia has been a victim of political and other sensitive issues amongst the countries in the region. Accordingly, the dynamic gains resulting from economic cooperation could not be exploited much to mitigate the misfortune of the teeming millions of the region,"

The business stalwarts urged the media and all sections of the society including businesses to refrain from any move which can fan up increasing misunderstandings that will destabilise political relationship and economic co-operation between the two neighbouring countries.

"The August 21 incident came as a bolt from the blue for the entire nation. The people of Bangladesh have risen in unison to condemn the evil attack. The government is also making serious efforts to make a full investigation with international help and also to stop recurrence of such acts of terrorism," they said.

"When everyone is awaiting to see the real culprits and their masterminds apprehended for exemplary punishment, the comments by some Indian media is most regrettable." the business leaders said. "The Indian media would be

doing a favour to Bangladesh if it

refrains from making provocative

comments in order to avoid further

misunderstandings between two

neighbourly sovereign countries, the business leaders said.

Signatories of the statement are Abdul Awal Mintoo, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mahbubur Rahman. president of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)- Bangladesh, Kutubuddin Ahmed, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, Mahbub Jamil, president of Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Amir Humayun M Chowdhury, president of Chittagong chamber, Fazle R M Hasan, president of Dhaka chamber, A K Azad, president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, M Anis Ud Dowla, president of Bangladesh Employers' Federation, Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman of Bangladesh Association of Banks, Nasir A Choudhury, chairman of Bangladesh Insurance Association, M A Awal, president of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, Annisul Huq, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Aftab-ul Islam, president of American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh, Md Fazlul Hoque, president of Bangladesh Knitwear

Manufacturers and Exporters

Association, and Col (Retd) M

Anisuzzaman, chairman of

Bangladesh Terry Towel and Linen

Manufacturers and Exporters

Clash over fishing leaves 50 injured in Natore

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

At least 50 people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over fishing at Singra upazila yester-

The warring groups also ransacked 15 houses during the clash that erupted after about 200 villagers of Joynagar attacked Tajpur village with lethal weapons.

Police said the attack was in retaliation for the beating of two residents by Tajpur villagers.

On Sunday, a group of villagers from Tajpur went to catch fish in a water body adjacent to Joynagar village. But the residents of Joynagar took away two fishing nets, locally known as Badai Jal, incensing the Tajpur villagers who beat up two youths of Joynagar village, witnesses

Five seriously injured people were admitted to Natore Sadar Hospital and Singra Health Complex. They are Taiab, 28, Tayez, 24, Shefali, 22, Nasima, 12, and Ashraful 25,

OIL POLLUTION CASE **BCSIR** submits report to CPA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The oil pollution case against a state-owned oil tanker gained momentum as Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) received a report of chemical test on the polluted water of outer anchorage following the oil spillage on August 28, port officials

Bangladesh Council of Science and Industrial Research (BCSIR) laboratory, based in the port city, submitted the report of chemical test yesterday, they added.

An official of the CPA, seeking anonymity, said: " We will now go ahead on the basis of the report and other findings of the investigation to draw proceedings against the oil tanker MT Banglar Sourav of

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation". "The chemical test has revealed massive pollution of water at the port channel with the spillage of huge quantity of crude oil from the tanker" the official said quoting the

"Consequently, the polluted water was harmful for marine life and human health, and unfit for

industrial use," he added. Meanwhile, the probe body formed by the shipping ministry submitted its report on Sunday in which the master, chief officer and other deck officers were held responsible for oil pollution while it was engaged in lightering imported crude oil at the outer anchorage.

officials said. The seven-member probe body was headed by Director General o Shipping Ahsanul Azim.

3 hundi traders arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT. Cta

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested three alleged Hundi (cheque) traders with Tk 2 lakh at the city's traditional business centre of Khatunganj on Sunday night.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab raided the area at around 7.00pm and arrested three persons when some members of a hundi smuggling racket were preparing for making transaction of hundi.

The arrestees were identified as Md. Ibrahim alias Manik, son of late Hazi Foyez Ahmed of Narayanhat of Fatikchhari, Md Harun, son of Md Noor Ahmed and Md Yunus, son of late Abdus Salam, of Lohagara in

CHHATAK BLAST CASE Argument likely to end today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Argument in a sensational case of bomb explosion that took place in the house of former Awami League MP Muhibur Rahman Manik was held at the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal in Sylhet for the second day yesterday.

The argument, which began on September 18, is likely to be concluded today, sources said.

The powerful blast took place on March 15, 1999 at the house of Manik, then ruling party lawmaker, at Chhatak Upazila headquarters, leaving three people dead and one injured.

It also caused a huge damage to the first floor of the two-storied building.

Manik filed a case the next day as he was not at the house on the day of blast. The then OC Abdus Salam also filed a case. Later, the cases were transferred to the CID. After a prolonged investigation,

CID ASP Aminul Islam submitted a

Bhuiyan, Billal Ahmed, Zakaria

charge sheet against Manik as the principal accused. Other accused included Manik's cousin Abul Lais Chowdhury, Biplab

Chowdhury and Gopal.

The case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal in January last year. The trial, however, remained suspended for long because of stay order issued by the High Court.

Haunted Hasina

Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to the AL chief.

The shocks and security concerns have virtually cut her off from junior leaders, activists and the common man. Known for her common touch, Hasina used to frequently visit party offices, district headquarters and rural areas to reach out to people before the attacks.

"She reeled from the worst nightmare of her life for the first few days in the wake the hideous massacre," said one of her personal aides. "She is now slowly recovering from the grisly tragedy FEARLESS FIGHTER

The blood and death still haunt her. The sacrifice of lives by party activists who threw up a human shield around her during the nearsimultaneous grenade explosions pains her." said another aide.

"You know she has repeatedly said she does not fear for her life, but silently wipes tears for them who gave blood and life to protect her."

In an interview with the Newsweek' magazine on May 11, 1981 after her election as the president of the AL, Hasina herself said she was neither afraid of being killed nor deterred by the strength of the government she would face

"In one's life," she said, "risks must be taken. If a person is afraid of death, life has no dignity.

Hasina, seen as a fearless fighter by her boosters, still repeats similar words to her visitors. "If, like my father, I have to make the supreme sacrifice, I am ready for that... only for the welfare of people of Bangladesh," she told some visitors recently.

Hasina's father Bangabandhu Sheikh Muiibur Rahman was killed along with most family in a putsch by a section of disgruntled army men in 1975. Hasina and her sister Rehana survived the massacre as they were Hasina put on only a two-hour

public appearance on August 25, four days after the grenade attacks, to pay her last homage to Ivy Rahman at her Gulshan house. AL leaders and the personal staff

of the leader of the opposition maintained a quarded secrecy until the last moment and her jeep did put on the national flag she is entitled to as the leader of the opposition to avoid being noticed. Since the attacks, she has con-

fined her activities virtually to meet-

of the August 21 carnage victims.

She also consults political decisions with party leaders at Sudha

The only formal programme she attended after the attacks was the meeting of top leaders of left 11party alliance. Jativa Samaitantrik Dal (JSD) and National Awami Party (NAP) at the residence on August

Her emotion-heavy voice faltered a month into the incident when people visited her to express sympathy. "Party leaders and workers are like my family members and I spend most of my time with them, instead of my son and daughter, she told a group of sympathisers.

The tight political schedule allows Hasina little time to stay at home and enjoy family life.

The leader of the opposition did not join the recently prorogued session of the Jatiya Sangsad because of security concerns. She could not chair the meeting of the AL Parliamentary Party also for the

SECURITY HOBBLES LIFE

Dozens of private security guards mostly retired army men, guard Hasina's lakeside residence in Dhanmondi round the clock. They search everyone at the

entrance with metal detectors and

prevent the common man from entering the house. The government also raised the security staff of Hasina in the wake of the grenade attacks. It added 14 more men and 2 vehicles to 18 men

The security service runs closecircuit cameras and unleashes three trained dogs at night to monitor her security.

"Threats to the life of Hasina are

not new. We've been repeatedly

asking the government to provide

and two vehicles after the attack.

adequate security for her, but it did not respond to the call positively Her security has not been amply stepped up," Saber said. "She wants to come out of the house. But we cannot allow her in

such a situation when fresh threats to her life are being issued one after another. "How can we let her move freely when we and the people do not

know anything about the outcome of the government-run investigation." Hasina has survived at least three major assassination attempts

after taking the helm of AL in 1981.

