



Information Minister M Shamsul Islam addresses a workshop on 'Enhancing the quality of news presentation in the electronic media' at the Bangladesh Betar Bhaban in the city yesterday.

Probe body report not acceptable: Menon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bangladesh Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon has said the report of the judicial probe committee on the August 21 grenade attack on Awami League rally is not at all acceptable as it has not divulged the name of foreign criminals who were involved in the deadly carnage.

The probe committee has mentioned about the criminals from abroad in oblique reference in order to defend the involvement of fundamentalist forces in the tragic incident, said Menon while addressing the divisional rally of the party at Shahid Hadis Park yesterday afternoon.

Presided over by Khulna district president of the party Comrade

Hafizur Rahman, the rally was also addressed by Gano Azadi League President Haji Abdu Samad, Central Secretary Bimol Biswas and Politbureau Member Comrade Haider Akbar Khan Rano.

Criticising the interference of the United States in the internal affairs of Bangladesh, Menon said imperialists, fundamentalists and communal forces across the world have joined together keeping close link with Jamaat-e-Islami in Bangladesh to prepare the ground for future intervention.

Menon said the whole government is deeply involved in corruption and money laundering. Several thousand crore taka have already been drained out of the country, he added.

SUNAMGANJ BLAST

Judgement on October 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A tribunal in Sylhet yesterday fixed October 9 for delivery of judgement in the sensational bomb blast case in connection with the explosion that took place in the house of the then ruling party MP Muhibur Rahman Manik.

After completion of arguments from the both sides, Judge Shah-E-alam Chowdhury of the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet Division fixed the date.

The court also sent Abul Lais Chowdhury to custody. Chowdhury sustained serious wounds during the blast.

The explosion occurred in the house of Manik at Chhatak upazila headquarters of Sunamganj district on March 15, 1999 killing two young men on the spot and injuring two others seriously while they were reportedly making bombs.

World Habitat Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The World Habitat Day will be observed today in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the globe highlighting the importance of treating urban and rural issues holistically for stopping migration of rural people to urban areas.

The theme of the World Habitat Day this year, 'cities-engines of rural development,' was chosen to remind development policy-makers at every level not to think of 'urban' and 'rural' as separate entities, rather as part of an economic and social whole.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in separate messages on the eve of the day called upon the authorities concerned to come up with specific suggestions and proposals for providing better habitats to the citizens.

Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of former Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) General Secretary M Enayetur Rahman, says a

press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Gulshan residence in the city after Magrib prayers on October 14.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.

Shraddha

Shraddha of Advocate Prashanta Kumar Sarkar (Shankar) will be held at his village home Maliati in Pangsha thana under Rajbari district today, says a press release.

Advocate Prashanta died of cardiac arrest at Judge's Court in the city on September 4.

He left behind his mother, wife, one son, one daughter, two brothers and three sisters to mourn his death.

'Tk 23,630m earned from fish export last fiscal'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country earned Tk 23,630 million by exporting 54,141 metric tons of fish and fish products in last fiscal year, said Iqbaluddin Ahmed Chowdhury, secretary of the fisheries and livestock ministry yesterday.

Speaking as special guest at a workshop, he said fisheries sector contributed 5.24 percent to gross domestic product (GDP) and six percent to export earnings.

Iqbaluddin said 1.3 million people earn their livelihood directly from fishing whereas 10 million people are directly or indirectly related to this sector for their income.

The workshop on 'Fisheries Co-management: Lessons and Directions' was jointly organised by World Fish Centre and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock at Brac Centre in the city.

Inaugurating the three-day workshop, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman said his ministry is working with the World Fish Centre to develop alternative models that seek to bring fishing communities, NGOs, and local level institutions together for improving fisheries manage-

ment. He said the community-based fisheries management approach has made significant contribution to fisheries management, habitat restoration and livelihoods of the poor fishermen in Bangladesh.

K Kuperan Viswanathan, director of Bangladesh and South Asia office of the World Fish Centre, said there are over 10,000 Jalmohals in the country which are potential water bodies for co-management in future.

Besides, the marine fisheries of Bangladesh is another potential area for this approach, he added.

The workshop has been organised to learn and share the experiences of successes and failures of the experiments of co-management around the world.

Some 120 participants from 15 countries of Asia and Africa are attending the workshop.

Chaired by Director of World Fish Centre Headquarters Mahfuzuddin Ahmed, the inaugural session of the workshop was also attended by Mohammad Nasir Uddin Ahmed, director general of the fisheries department.

JCD leader abuses female student at RU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A former Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader abused a female student of Rajshahi University (RU) on Saturday evening that sparked off protest and anger among the teachers and students who demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

The victim, a first year student of history, has been admitted to a private clinic in the city with injuries on her face and body.

Emdadul Haque Bablu, a former member of RU JCD convening committee, went to the

campus along with four accomplices.

He tried to strip off the female student waylaying her in front of the central library while she was returning home with her friends from the evening shift class.

The victim alleged that Bablu, brother-in-law of Imtiaz Ahmed, a teacher of Islamic history and culture department, had been teasing her for last few months.

The miscreants fled the scene before other students came in her rescue.

Students of History department brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus

Bangladesh behind race in agro-export

MK Anwar tells workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is behind the race although it has huge potential for exporting fresh, processed or semi-processed farm products, said Agriculture Minister M K Anwar yesterday.

Speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of a workshop he said the growth of agribusiness and agro-processing industries has not picked up the momentum as desired.

The minister said India, Bhutan, Thailand and the Philippines, which

produce agricultural commodities similar to those of Bangladesh, have developed aggressive programmes and policies, and are exporting their products to many developed countries.

The workshop on 'The draft actionable policy briefs and resource implications for the agriculture sector' was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture at LGED Bhaban at Agargaon in the city.

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, Rural Development Chief of World Bank Dr Mohinder Mudahar, Deputy Representative of UNDP Larry Maramis and Fao representative Bui Thi Lan attended the workshop as special guests.

The minister said agricultural research is also suffering from stagnation.

"While the research institutes claim to have useful technologies in their baskets, their application in the field is limited. New seeds with yield potential higher than the existing ones are not coming," he added.

The inaugural session was followed by a technical session where experts presented papers on various aspects of the agricultural

sector such as seed, irrigation, mechanisation, marketing, research, extension and fertiliser.

Experts from different government and non-government organisations are taking part in two-day workshop.

Child Rights Week begins today

BSS, Dhaka

Elaborate programmes have been taken to observe the International Children Day and Child Rights Week throughout the country from today to create a greater awareness against child trafficking, child labour, child repression and child murder.

The theme of this year's observance of the occasion is "Interest of Children Above All During Cyclone, Floods and Disasters."

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in separate messages stressed the need for developing the children as good citizens as they have to shoulder the future responsibility of the nation.

Gift for Thai queen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The saplings, sent from Bangladesh on the occasion of the 72nd birthday anniversary of Thai Queen, have been planted at an important park in Thailand.

Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam sent the saplings of some rare spices on behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh as gift, official sources said.

Bangladesh embassy in Bangkok informed the ministry that the saplings were planted in Benjakitti Park which is located next to the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre.

The park, dedicated for children, surrounds a beautiful lake and has a backdrop of impressive modern buildings, according to a message received from the embassy.

The birthday celebration of Thai Queen was marked by tree plantation ceremony.

Training course on public relations begins

A two-week training course on "Modern Techniques of Public Relations" organised by Bangladesh Institute of Communication Studies and Public Relations (BICSPR) began on October 2 at the institute, says a press release.

Syed Fahim Munaim, Managing Editor of The Daily Star, inaugurated the course as chief guest.

Fahim Munaim in his speech said public relations was a modern and esteemed profession. He said public relations officers have to be acquainted with the modern techniques of public relations including information and communication technology to face the need of the twenty first century.

BICSPR Executive Director Mirza Tarequl Qader and Bangladesh Public Relations Association President Mostafa-e-Jamil also spoke with BICSPR governing body chairman industrialist Anwar Hossain Chowdhury in the chair.



Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Syed Margub Morshed speaks at a discussion on 'Importance of ICT in poverty eradication and unemployment alleviation' at the Institution of Engineers auditorium in the city yesterday. Jubo Karmasangsthan Society organised the discussion.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal, and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions till 6.00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and lowest 22.2 degree Celsius at Sayedpur yesterday.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:43pm today and rises at 5:52am tomorrow.

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

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

DHAKA TODAY

Luis Bunuel Retrospective

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen ten films in the retrospective of world-renowned Spanish filmmaker Luis Bunuel (1900-1983). Four films will be screened on the first day. These are 'Viridiana' (1961), 'An Andalusian Dog' (1929) 'The Exterminating Angel' (1962) and 'Simon of the Desert' (1965). Venue: Goethe-Institut, Road - 9, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm, 6.00pm and 8.00pm.

Festival

A food and handicrafts festival, organised by Griha Sukhan, will be held with Commerce Advisor Barkatullah Bulu as chief guest. Venue: Griha Sukhan. Time: 10.00am.

Cultural function

Aparajeyo Bangladesh, an NGO, organises a cultural function to be performed by disadvantaged children. Venue: Amphitheatre, Dhanmondi Lake. Time: 6.30pm.

Indian film show

The High Commission of India will screen a film titled 'Koi Mil Gaya'. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House-25, Road-96, Gulshan-2.

BNP meeting

A meeting of the metropolitan unit of four-party alliance will be held with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in the chair. Venue: 80, Naya Paltan. Time: 5.00pm.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Bangladesh: Anatomy of Change' by Abdul Awal Mintoo. Venue: Hotel Sundarban. Time: 4.00pm.

Urs Mubarak

The annual Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Moulana Safiullah (RA) will be held. Venue: 78, Shantinagar. Time: 10.00am.



Tokai Natya Dal, a working children's theatre group, stages 'Noorjahan' at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the city recently at a function for the working children. Unicef organised the function.