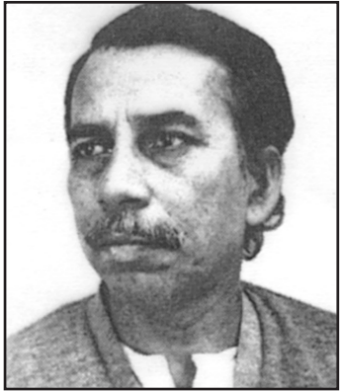




BDR members stand guard near a makeshift camp at Rampura in the city yesterday. The Dhaka Metropolitan Police has set up such camps at different points to beef up security during Ramadan.

DU month-long vacation begins tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT
A month-long vacation of Dhaka University (DU) on account of Durga Puja, Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr begins tomorrow.
The university will reopen on November 11, sources said.
Meanwhile, DU Syndicate yesterday approved appointment of four lecturers at Islami Studies department with note of descent by two members.
Prof Sadaka Halim, one of the syndicate members, told The Daily Star that the appointments were not made on the basis of merit.
Bangladesh Chhatra League brought out a procession and held a rally in protest against the appointments and demanded immediate cancellation.



Comrade Farhad's death anniversary today

Today is the 18th death anniversary of Comrade Mohammad Farhad, former general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), says a press release.
On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the residence of Rasheda Khanam, wife of late Farhad, 94/F, Azimpur Colony (adjacent to Party House Mosque) after Asr prayers today.
Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the mahfil.

Amin Ahmed Chowdhury

BSS, Dhaka
Today is the 20th death anniversary of Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, former Assistant Editor of now defunct 'The Bangladesh Times.'
The former correspondent of Voice of America (VOA), World Service and the British daily, 'The Guardian', Amin died of a massive heart attack on October 9, 1985, at the age of 40.
A milad mahfil will be held at Purana Pallan Lane Mosque after Esha prayer on the occasion.
Colleagues, relatives and friends have been requested to pray for the departed soul.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Dr GM Muhiuddin B h u i y a n Swapan, a senior medical consultant of the Science Laboratory, will be held at the Science Laboratory Club at 2:30pm today, says a press release.
Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the departed soul.
Dr Muhiuddin, son of social worker late Ayet Ali Bhuiyan of Chandpur, passed away at the Holy Family Hospital in the city on October 4 at the age of 49.

'Stop violence against indigenous people'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesting army repression on the ethnic minority groups in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), Hill Women's Federation (HWF) placed a four-point demand at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday to stop violence on indigenous people.
The federation demanded immediate arrest of an army major and his associates responsible for attacks on several ethnic families at Babuchhara under Dighinala thana in Khagrachhari district on October 2.
The other demands included judicial inquiry into the incident, compensation to the victim's families, withdrawal of army camps from CHT including Babuchhara and stopping of Operation Uttaran.
The federation alleged that the members of the army ransacked the house of HWF convenor Rupali Chakma and beat her severely on an allegation of keeping arms.
They also beat two other women

named Kalika Chakma and Sufiya Chakma and threatened to abduct Kalika's minor girl Muktamoni, it claimed.
The army persons also dug out the floor of their houses in search of arms.
After the publication of the story in Bhorer Kagoj on October 3, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) department denied the allegation in a statement on October 6.
Terming the ISPR statement as totally inaccurate, the speakers at the press conference said it was issued only to protect the army persons.
In a written statement at the press conference, federation President Sonali Chakma said the repression on women in CHT is nothing new and the army always tries to suppress its evil activities.
Former President of HWF Kabita Chakma, and Office Secretary Malina Chakma were present on the occasion.

Robberies at Satkania: 7 bullet-hit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least seven people received bullet injuries, one of them critically, when a gang of fleeing robbers opened fire at villagers at Fakhirkheel in Satkania.
The injured are Ronnie Das, 9, Pradip Das, 28, Bhagyadhan, 46, Sushil, 40, Ajit, 42, Anil, 40, and Hari Kamal, 41.
Of them, Ronnie was admitted to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) in critical condition. He received a bullet in his abdomen.
The others were undergoing treatment at the local health complex.
Police said a gang of 15 to 20 robbers stormed into the house of one Dula Miah and a tea stall at around 1:00 am on Friday night.
They opened indiscriminate fire as the locals tried to resist them and cried out for help.
The gang however fled the scene with a booty worth over Tk 1 lakh.
A case was filed with Satkania Police Station in this connection.

Cold storage, shops gutted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A cold storage and five shops were gutted in fire causing loss of Tk 1.25 lakh in two separate incidents in the city yesterday.
At Tejgaon, a tea stall caught fire at noon and it spread to four other shops causing loss of Tk 75,000.
Owners of the shops, with the help of fire brigades, managed to recover materials worth Tk two lakh from the shops, fire brigade sources said.
In another incident at Farashganj in Sutrapur, TC Ice and Cold Storage caught fire from electric short circuit on the 2nd floor in the afternoon. Three units of Sadarghat and Phulbaria Headquarters' fire brigades rushed to the spot and blew out the fire.
Fire brigade sources said a total loss of Tk 50,000 was counted as the fruits and spices were burnt. However, valuables worth Tk five lakh were recovered.

10 shops gutted, properties worth Tk 15 lakh damaged in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

At least 10 shops were gutted and properties worth about Tk 15 lakh damaged in a fire at a market at the city's Shahi Eidgah area yesterday.
The fire originated from the short circuit of a shop in the market spread to the adjacent shops slowly.
The fire service personnel reached the spot at about 12:00 noon and tried to bring the fire under control from further spreading.
The gutted shops in the tin-shed market include two electronic goods shop, one drug store and one grocery.

World Postal Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The World Postal Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe today.
This year's theme is World Postal Network Reaching Everyone and Everywhere.
President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in separate messages conveyed their heartfelt thanks to officials and employees of the postal department and wished the day's success.
"Postal system is key to civilisation after its introduction in 1874. Bangladesh joined the world postal union in 1973 and is making significant contribution to it," the president said in his message.
He also expressed the hope that the postal department would further increase the quality of their services in the day ahead.
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in her message said the postal department has immense importance despite the dominance of information and communication technology.

Aga Khan honoured

Aga Khan, Imam of the Ismaili Muslims and founder of the Aga Khan Development Network, has been awarded the Die Quadriga prize in recognition of his lifetime contribution to the welfare of the people in the poorest regions of the world, says a press release.
Afghan President Hamid Karzai, a previous Die Quadriga recipient, presented the 'United We Care' award to Aga Khan at a ceremony in Berlin, Germany, recently, praising him as a humanist, peace-builder, democrat, philanthropist and "esteemed ambassador between civilisations."
The 25,000-euro gift, which accompanies the award, was matched by Aga Khan and subsequently allocated to a micro-finance project in Tanzania.

FFs to form human chain October 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters will form a human chain on October 22 protesting instability and deterioration of law and order situation in the country.
The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting of Muktiyoddha Oikya Parishad at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city with Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury in the chair.
They also demanded expulsion of Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury from the cabinet.
Syed Rezaur rahman, Habibur Rahman Shawkat and Mohammad Ali Chowdhury also addressed the meeting.

Barapukuria coal extraction still uncertain

UNB, Dinajpur

Coal extraction from the country's first mine at Barapukuria in Dinajpur has become uncertain due to leakage of gas through pit.
Sources said carbon monoxide gas started to emit from the underground mine on September 30, forcing CMC, the Chinese operator of the mine, to suspend its operation.
But Chairman of Petrobangla SR

Osmani told UNB in Dhaka that the leakage has been successfully sealed on Friday.
"Now the danger is over. We are waiting for the next course of action. The operation of coalmine will resume soon", he said.
He termed the incident of gas leakage as a very natural one. "This frequently happens in many mines in the world. This does not expose to any danger".

The Petrobangla chief, however, did not specifically mention when the operation could be resumed.
Meanwhile, the Chinese operators have forwarded an insurance claim to the state-owned Sadharan Bima Corporation (SBC) for the damage of its equipment due to the gas leakage.
Sources said there is an insurance agreement of a value of Tk 1,200 crore between the SBC and the CMC over the operation of the Barapukuria coal mine.



Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil speaks at a press conference of 14-party at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

'Arrest those involved in vandalising idols'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and social organisations yesterday strongly protested the incidents of vandalising idols at three puja mandaps (altars) in Khulna, Faridpur and Jessore and the attack on the Chatteshwari Temple in Chittagong.
They also demanded immediate arrest of and exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the incidents.
In a statement, Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government has been patronising the evil forces trying to destroy the communal harmony in the country.
He called on the government to ensure security for the Hindu community so that they can celebrate the Durga Puja festival without hindrance.
Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) also expressed deep concern

over such attacks on puja mandaps.
These are not isolated incidents under the present regime as the BNP-Jamaat government has been carrying out attacks on the minorities since its takeover in 2001, said BSD central committee member Abdullah Sarkar in a statement.
In another statement, Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad said the attacks made Hindus feel insecure at a time when they are celebrating their biggest religious festival.
For the greater national interest, the countrymen, irrespective of caste and religion, should unite against the evil forces involved in such attacks, the Parishad leaders said.
Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Parishad, Bangladesh Jubo Union and Prithak Nirbachan Bastabayan Parishad also condemned the attacks.

BIWTC profits Tk 26.50 crore Bhola-Laxmipur ferry service soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) earned a profit of Tk 26.50 crore in last fiscal year.
Speaking at a press conference at its office in the city yesterday, BIWTA Chairman Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas said the corporation had been earning profit since last five years thanks to discipline brought in this sector.
"We made a profit of Tk 10.51 crore in fiscal year 2001-02, Tk 18.58 crore in 2002-03 fiscal, and Tk 25.34 crore in fiscal year 2003-04," he added.
The chairman said BIWTC has recently repaired and restarted three Ro-Ro ferries and one pontoon at a cost of Tk 13.82 crore to facilitate communications for passengers.
The corporation will soon press into service a new row ferry and one pontoon at a cost of Tk 5.72 crore, he added.
"We have started rocket services on Dhaka-Khulna route for six-day instead of one-day per week and ferry services at Aricha-Paturia ghats," said the chairman.
He said BIWTC will start ferry services between Bhola and Laxmipur establishing direct road communications between Chittagong and Barisal divisions soon.
BIWTC officials Ashish Kumar Pal, Naimul Karim, Shahinul, MK Poddar and Kamal Uddin were also present at the press conference.



Sonali Chakma, president of the Hill Women's Federation, speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

Former IU VC Dr Sirajul Islam passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Professor Dr M Sirajul Islam, former vice-chancellor of Islamic University passed away due to brain hemorrhage at a city hospital early yesterday at the age of 77.
His qulkhwani will be held at his Dhanmondi residence at 4:00pm tomorrow.
Prof Sirajul Islam joined the Islamic History and Culture Department of Dhaka University in 1951. He was the chairman of the department during 1977-1980.
He was also a visiting professor of Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States during 1981-1984.

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City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.5	26.2	79	81
Chittagong	--	25.6	96	71
Rajshahi	32.8	23.8	80	79
Khulna	33.6	26.3	82	79
Barisal	33.4	25.7	80	88
Sylhet	34.5	24.3	90	94
Cox's Bazar	34.0	25.5	78	81



The Five-Left-leaning Party takes out a procession in the city yesterday demanding immediate steps to bring down the prices of essentials and to protect the country from the bird flu, which has struck several Asian nations.