

BBC starts Bangladesh Sanglap tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BBC Bengali Service will broadcast the first of eight rounds of discussions titled Bangladesh Sanglap (Dialogue on Bangladesh) at 8:00pm tomorrow.

The programme will be aired on special frequencies SW 31 & 41 metre bands (9395 & 7520 kHz) and FM100 MHz in Dhaka.

The topic of the first discussion is 'Are people receiving justice'.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and Awami League leader Abdul Matin Khashru will respond to the questions of the audience.

Former Chief Justice Mostafa Kamal and eminent lawyers Sultana Kamal and Abdur Razzaq will also be among the panelists.

BBC has already asked people to submit their questions.

The issues to be covered in Bangladesh Sanglap are justice, corruption, local government, education, health, trade, security and governance.

Discussions will also be broadcast on the private television channel 'Channel I' every Sunday at 8:00pm.

Phone-in programmes will be broadcast from 7:45pm to 8:30pm on Fridays during an extended edition of Probaho, while two five-minute radio features related to each topic of the debate will be broadcast during the Parikrama programme at 10:30pm on Wednesdays.

Apart from these programmes, BBC will also organise events at the universities leading to two special 'Youth Sanglap' in January 2006.

More bodies condemn killing of judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) and other organisations yesterday condemned the killing of two judges in a bomb attack in Jhalakathi.

The Duta leaders urged the government to uproot the militants from the country in order to ensure security of the general people at a meeting with President Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair.

Teachers will bring out a silent procession on November 19 from Aparajeyo Bangla to Central Shaheed Minar at 12:00noon demanding immediate arrest and trial of the culprits responsible for the bomb attack.

Others condemned the incident include Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, World Peace and Human Rights Movement Bangladesh, Sammilito Nagorik Samaj, Sammilito Samajik Andolan, Progotishil Chhatra Jote, Jatir Janak Adarsha Parishad, Bangladesh Students' Union.

ADMISSION FORMS PRICE HIKE

Strike observed at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

The first day of the two-day strike called by Progotishel Chhatra Jote (PSJ) protesting the price hike of admission forms was observed at Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday.

All academic activities came to near halt due to the strike as the presence

of teachers and students were thin. The agitators, however, allowed some departments to take year final examinations considering session jam and sufferings of general students.

The PSJ will lay a siege to the university administrative building tomorrow to force the authorities to take steps to reduce the price of admission forms.

The PSJ leaders at a press conference in the evening said a group of teachers led by proctor Prof Kamrul Ahsan went to the area in a microbus where the PSJ activists were sitting on road to stop the Dhaka-bound university bus scheduled to leave campus at 6:30am. They said the teachers tried to prevent our activists from carrying out the programme.

As the agitators refused to let the bus go, the teachers dragged some of their activists out of the road and forced the drivers to ply the bus, they added.

Terming the incident 'undemocratic act' they also expressed concern over the allegation of misconduct brought against six PSJ activists by the teacher.

They urged the proctor to take necessary action against the teachers involved in the early morning incident.

They said they will continue the programme until the decision to increase price hike of the admission forms is withdrawn.

BNP-Jamaat alliance has direct link with militants

Say 14-party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the 14 opposition parties yesterday blamed the BNP-Jamaat alliance government for the killing of two judges in Jhalakathi, saying that it has a direct link with the Islamist militants.

As the government has a link with the militants, it managed to keep them from carrying out any bomb attack during the Saarc Summit, said Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil at a rally at Mukhtangan.

He also demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to Bangla Bhai and Shaikh Abdur Rahman, who are instigating militancy.

Jalil, also the coordinator of the 14 opposition party alliance, alleged that there is a nexus between the government and Bangla Bhai and Shaikh Abdur Rahman. The government also harboured the militant kingpin Mufti Hannan, he added.

During the Saarc Summit, the government created a panic among

the countrymen in the name of fool-proof security, but the two judges were killed immediately after the summit, he said.

"The expectations of the poor people of the seven Saarc countries have not been materialised in the last 20 years. We still do not know whether this summit would change their fate. In the summit, a number of decisions were taken, but we do not see any implementation of the decisions," Jalil said.

Terrorism and poverty are the main problems facing the region, he said.

Toppling the alliance government is a must to ensure security, alleviate poverty and restore the democratic and fundamental rights of the people, said the AL leader.

He also said the government is torturing, harassing and arresting the opposition leaders and workers ahead of November 22 grand rally.

He warned that the people would forge a strong resistance across the country against the misrule of the

government from November 22.

At the grand rally, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will declare programmes to change the fate of the countrymen, said Jalil.

He also urged the countrymen to make the rally a success to get rid of all forms of torture, repression and harassment by the coalition government.

City AL General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya presided over the rally. Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu, Dilip Barua, Tofail Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury, Obaidul Quader, Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal and Saifuddin Ahmed Manik were also present at the rally protesting the killing of the judges.

Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Awami Jubo League, Noakhali district unit, Ganomukti O Jatiya Sampad Raksha Samilita Andolon also held separate rallies to protest the killings.

Japan, China welcome Saarc status

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Asia's two major economic giants, Japan and China, have welcomed the decision of the 13th Saarc Summit to give them observer status in the regional forum and vows to strengthen ties with the regional grouping by further cooperation.

The 13th Saarc Summit decided to include Afghanistan as a new member in the regional body and award China and Japan the observer status.

Both the decisions will however come into effect after the Saarc Council of Ministers ratify it during a meeting in Dhaka after six months.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao in Beijing said China expressed readiness to cooperate with members of the Saarc to improve reciprocal cooperation and achieve common prosperity.

"China welcomes the successful holding of the 13th Saarc Summit and hopes that the South Asian countries can make more achievements in the process of promoting regional cooperation," he said.

Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement yesterday welcomed the decision of the just concluded 13th Saarc Summit to accord the country an observer status in the regional forum.

"Japan has supported the activities of the grouping through the Japan-Saarc Special Fund, amongst other means, under the premises that Saarc is contributing to regional stability and development in South Asia, which in turn is integral to Asia in its entirety," the statement said.

Japan will coordinate the modalities of its observer status and is committed to strengthen its relations with the Saarc, it added.

COMPANYGANJ KILLING Another murder case against former OC, 25 others

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Another murder case has been filed against a former officer-in-charge (OC) of Companyganj Police Station and 25 others on charge of killing five people in the locality on October 20.

Khuku Rani Majumder, wife of slain Bidhan Chandra Majumder, filed the case on Sunday with Magistrate Zayedul Islam Bhuiyan against former OC Mohammad Ayub and others.

The magistrate took the case into cognisance and ordered the acting OC of Companyganj Police Station to file an FIR (first information report) against the accused.

Advocate Shankar Bhoomik, counsel for Khuku Rani, told reporters that Bidhan and four others were killed when police fired on local traders who laid a siege to the police station on October 20 to protest a robbery in a jewellery shop at Basurhat Bazaar.

The other accused include former sub-inspectors Shudhangsu Chakrabarty, Anisur Raser Bhuiyan and Abu Ahmed and former assistant sub-inspectors Nirmalendu Chakma, Fakhrul Alam and Humayun Kabir.

On October 27, Abu Bakar Siddique, father of Alauddin, one of the dead, filed a murder case against the policemen.

Two killed in Ctg road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people were killed and another three injured in a road accident at Mirersarai upazila when two trucks collided head-on in the early hours of yesterday.

The dead were identified as Nabis Uddin, 40, son of Kismat Biswas of Damurhuda in Chuadanga, and Krishna Charan Jaldas, 30, son of Salu Kumar Jaldas of Mirersarai in Chittagong.

The injured, now undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), are: Mohar Ali, 35, of Damurhuda, Abdul Ali, 50, of Damurhuda, and Mozhara Ali, 45, of Shyampur in Chuadanga, police said.

The accident occurred at around 5:30am yesterday on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Bhangar Dokan area in Durgapur union of the upazila. Nabis and Krishna died on the spot while local people rescued the injured from inside the wrecks of the two vehicles and sent them to Mirersarai upazila health complex, from where they were shifted to the CMCH.

The two truck drivers, however, managed to flee.

A case was filed in this connection with the Mirersarai Police Station.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil speaks at a rally at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday. Opposition 14-party combine organised the meeting to protest the killing of judges.

BSF returns bodies of 5 Bangladeshis

UNB, Benapole

BSF yesterday returned bodies of five Bangladeshi nationals beaten to death at Bongaon on October 1.

Minhajul, Lata, Aktarul, Hahidul and Abdul Khaleque of Sharsha went to India with a cancer patient for treatment. On way they stayed in a house of a relative at Bongaon. A group of villagers suspecting of stealing a motorbike dragged them out of the house at dead of night and beat them to death.

1,304 more held

UNB, DHAKA

Police arrested 1,304 people, including two listed criminals, on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law enforcement agencies also seized seven firearms, eight other weapons, 25 bullets and four explosives, says a police headquarters press release.

Cabinet greets PM on election as Saarc chair

BSS, Dhaka

The cabinet at its regular meeting yesterday extended warm felicitations to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on her election as the Saarc chairperson.

It also thanked all concerned and people of all levels for successful holding of the 13th Saarc Summit.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presided over the meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The cabinet approved the draft of the Cable Television Network Law, 2005 in the interest of operating the TV networks in a systematic way.

It also okayed the draft of the Private Security Service Law, 2005 with the aim of ensuring the standard of private security service and running its activities smoothly.

The cabinet discussed in detail the draft of the Rivers, Floodplains and Waterbodies Protection, Development, Recovery and Filling Control Law, 2005. It decided to place the proposed draft law after further scrutiny, the handout said.

Cabinet members and concerned state ministers attended the meeting.

Cabinet secretary, principal secretary to the PMO and concerned secretaries were present.

Human chain to protest NU decision in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

About one hundred admission-seekers in the Masters final under the National University (NU) yesterday formed a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club protesting a new decision of the NU authorities that declares them ineligible for admission.

The human chain was followed by rally.

"According to the new decision, the students who have failed in the comprehensive exams and the subsidiary courses of Honours Part-3 in this year are not eligible for admission in the Master's final term where as the failed students in same courses of the last years are allowed to get admission," the students said.



PHOTO: STAR

A girl and a boy carrying his belongings move to other place after the Dhaka City Corporation dismantled a slum at South Begunbari and evicted the slum dwellers yesterday.

AUG 17 SERIAL BLASTS

Charge sheet against Bangla Bhai, Abdur Rahman submitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Charge sheet against Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) top leaders, Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai, was submitted yesterday for the blasts in Khulna University on August 17.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Mahbubur Rahman of Batiaghata Police Station submitted the charge sheet against them including seven others as well.

The other chargesheeted accused are Shahidullah alias Lokman, Palash, Hafez Mahmud, Asaduzzaman Arif, Mintoo, Mehdi Hasan and Shaikhul

Dowry claims yet another life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife who was set on fire by her husband over dowry died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

The victim Shabana Begum, 35, was rushed to the hospital on November 11 after her husband Mohammad Amin forced her onto a burning gas oven at their house at East Dholaipar in Demra.

Amin went into hiding soon after the incident.

Shabana's relatives said Amin demanded Tk one lakh in dowry from her father Arju Mia of Siddique Bazar in the old part of the city, but she brought only Tk 20,000 from her house on November 2.

Since then, Amin had made her life miserable, they said.

On November 11, the husband and wife were locked in a quarrel. At one point, Amin forced her onto the burning oven at around 8:00am, leaving her seriously injured.

Shabana was immediately rushed to the burn unit of DMCH where she died at 10:30am yesterday.

A case was filed against Amin under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Islam. Shahidullah and Palash are in jail while others are still at large.

Mother kills self after slaying 3 daughters

UNB, Bogra

Crushed under poverty, a mother committed suicide after poisoning her three daughters to death at Jamthol village in Sariakandi upazila of the district on Monday night.

Police said Kazuli Begum, 30, wife of day-labourer Amiruddin, poured poison into the mouths of their three daughters - Arzina, 7, Sharmin, 6, and Rubina, 3 - in absence of Amiruddin, leaving them dead on the spot.

Later, Kazuli took her own life by taking poison.

Locals said Amiruddin returned home at about 9:00pm and found the bodies of his wife and children.

On information, police went to the village yesterday afternoon and recovered the bodies.

SSKOP meeting tomorrow

Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) will hold an urgent meeting at Jatiya Press Club in the city tomorrow, says a press release.

It will discuss about the publication of 40 percent dearness allowance announced by the sixth wage board in the gazette as the Ministry of Information is dillydallying to publish the announcement in the gazette.

NON-BALLOTTEE HAJJ PILGRIMS

Govt urged not to create discrimination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Olama-Mashaekh Samonnoy Parishad yesterday rejected the government decision to fix airfare for non-ballottee hajj pilgrims at US \$ 1150.

They urged the government not to create discrimination among ballottee and non-ballottee as they all are the citizens of the country and fix the airfare for non-ballottee pilgrims at US \$ 950.

The parishad made the plea at a human chain participated by non-ballottee pilgrims wearing 'ehram' (a cloth which they wear at the time of Hajj) at Mukhtangan in the city from 3:00pm to 4:00pm to press home their demand. Speaking on the occasion, parishad President Abdul Latif Chowdhury said at the time of announcing the national hajj policy four months ago, the government declared that US \$ 950 would be airfare for all pilgrims.

But now the fair has been raised to US \$ 1150 to meet personal interest of some officials of Biman Bangladesh Airlines and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, he added.

Latif said as less pilgrims opted for performing hajj this year under gov-

ernment management, the airfare for non-ballottee pilgrims has been raised to discourage them for future.

Latif said, "If the government fails to ensure the same airfare for both categories of pilgrims then it has no right to stay in power."

Parishad General Secretary Wahiduzzaman said there are some Muftis and Allamas in the four-party alliance government, who always claim themselves as Islamic people but they have no comments about the airfare crisis of non-ballottee pilgrims.

He threatened that if the government does not take immediate step to resolve the airfare crisis of non-ballottee pilgrims they will launch agitation to oust the government.

"If needed, we will join the opposition movement to oust the four-party alliance government," he added.

The parishad will hold a roundtable to be participated by Olamas, intellectuals and political leaders at Moni-Singhar Farhad Trust at Purana Palatan tomorrow to find out a solution to fare crisis.

Parishad Advisor Azizur Rahman, Joint Secretary SM Wasuuddin Nurani, Organising Secretary Principal Samsur Rahman and leader Nojmul Haq also spoke on the occasion.

PM to visit foreign ministry tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs tomorrow and hold meeting with senior officials.

This will be her first visit to foreign ministry since she assumed the office in October 2001.

Earlier, Khaleda visited different ministries and held talks with the officials to expedite government activities.

But her visit to foreign ministry will be different one as it is aimed mainly to thank the officials for their strenuous striving to make the just-held 13th Saarc summit a success.

Official sources said the PM will also have a lunch with the officials there.

Earlier, the foreign ministry cancelled all leaves including the weekly holidays from October 21 to the end of the summit on November 13. During the Eid holidays, the ministry was closed only on Eid day.

Khaleda is expected to make a call for infusing fresh dynamism into her government's 'economic diplomacy' to add substance to the parlance.

Ahead of the visit of the PM after assuming the Saarc chair, the foreign ministry building is being refurbished to give it a new look.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Fuchs Lubricants Bangladesh Ltd organises a technical seminar on Textile Lubricants and Lubrications System. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan. Time: 10:00am.

Procession
Bangladesh Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal will take out a procession congratulating Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on her being elected as Saarc Chairperson. Venue: Aparajeya Bangla, DU. Time: 11:00am.

Poetry recital
A poetry recital will be held under the aegis of 'Gantabya', a literary magazine, to mark the 41st birthday of poet Sheikh Nazrul. Venue: 21/3, Talaita Officers' Quarters, Argargaon. Time: 7:00pm.

Obituary

Abdullah Al Mahmood Masud, UP chairman of Mohanpur under Rajitpur Upazila in Kurigram, passed away due to liver cirrhosis at Shamorita Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 38, says a press release.

He left behind one son, one daughter and admirers to mourn his death.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Naim Shikder Bindu, former general secretary of BNP ward no 90 unit, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad-mahfil and destitute feeding will be held at his house at 213 Karimullah Bag, Postogola. A condolence procession will also be held at 10:00am.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the functions.

On this day last year, Bindu was shot dead by miscreants.

Anwara Begum

Today is the first death anniversary of Anwara Begum, mother of Gaus U Khan Moni, founder chairman and managing director of Moni Group, says a press release.

Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 30.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 15.4 degree Celsius at Sitakundua and Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:12pm today and rises at 6:15am tomorrow.

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	28.4	18.7	72	76
Chittagong	30.2	17.6	76	58
Rajshahi	29.2	16.4	90	83
Khulna	29.5	19.0	74	72
Barisal	29.5	18.0	82	91
Sylhet	29.5	18.4	64	72
Cox's Bazar	29.5	18.3	61	61