

WORLD TOURISM DAY TODAY

Call for private investment in tourism

UNB, Dhaka

The World Tourism Day will be observed in the country today as elsewhere across the globe with a call for private investment in the tourism sector to exploit its untapped potentials.

This year the theme of the Day is 'Tourism - Celebrating Diversity'.

To observe the Day, different government and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out various programmes, including rallies, debating competition and discussions.

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC), the only government body promoting tourism, will bring out a colourful rally from the TSC in the city at about 10:00am in association with Dhaka University Tourists Society.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader, Tourism

Secretary Hedayetullah Al-Mamun and Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique will lead the rally.

The BPC in cooperation with Tour Operators of Bangladesh will hold a seminar at a city hotel to mark the day.

National dailies will bring out supplements while radio and television channels will air special programmes highlighting significance of the day.

Meanwhile, President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion.

In his message, President Zillur described tourism as a very potential sector of the country and said its development is possible through attractive presentation of its elements and resources both at home and abroad.

He urged the private investors to come forward to supplement the government efforts in promoting the sector.

Sheikh Hasina in her message said Bangladesh can emerge as one of the best tourism destinations in South Asia utilising its immense potentials.

She hoped that it would be possible to implement the charter of change initiated by her government alongside building 'Golden Bangla' as dreamt by Bangabandhu through developing the country's multidimensional tourism sector.

Staff correspondent in Chittagong adds: A weeklong programme marking the 'World Tourism Day' began at Hotel Agrabad in Chittagong yesterday.

The hotel authorities chalked out different programmes -- drawing and

essay competition for school students, and colourful procession.

The hotel also offered discount on room fairs and food items on the occasion.

HM Hakim Ali, chief executive officer of Hotel Agrabad, at a press conference in Chittagong yesterday urged the government to develop different spectacular sites in the port land for expansion of tourism.

He said Cox's Bazar, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Foy's Lake, Patenga Sea Beach, War Cemetery and others places could be turned into important tourist zones.

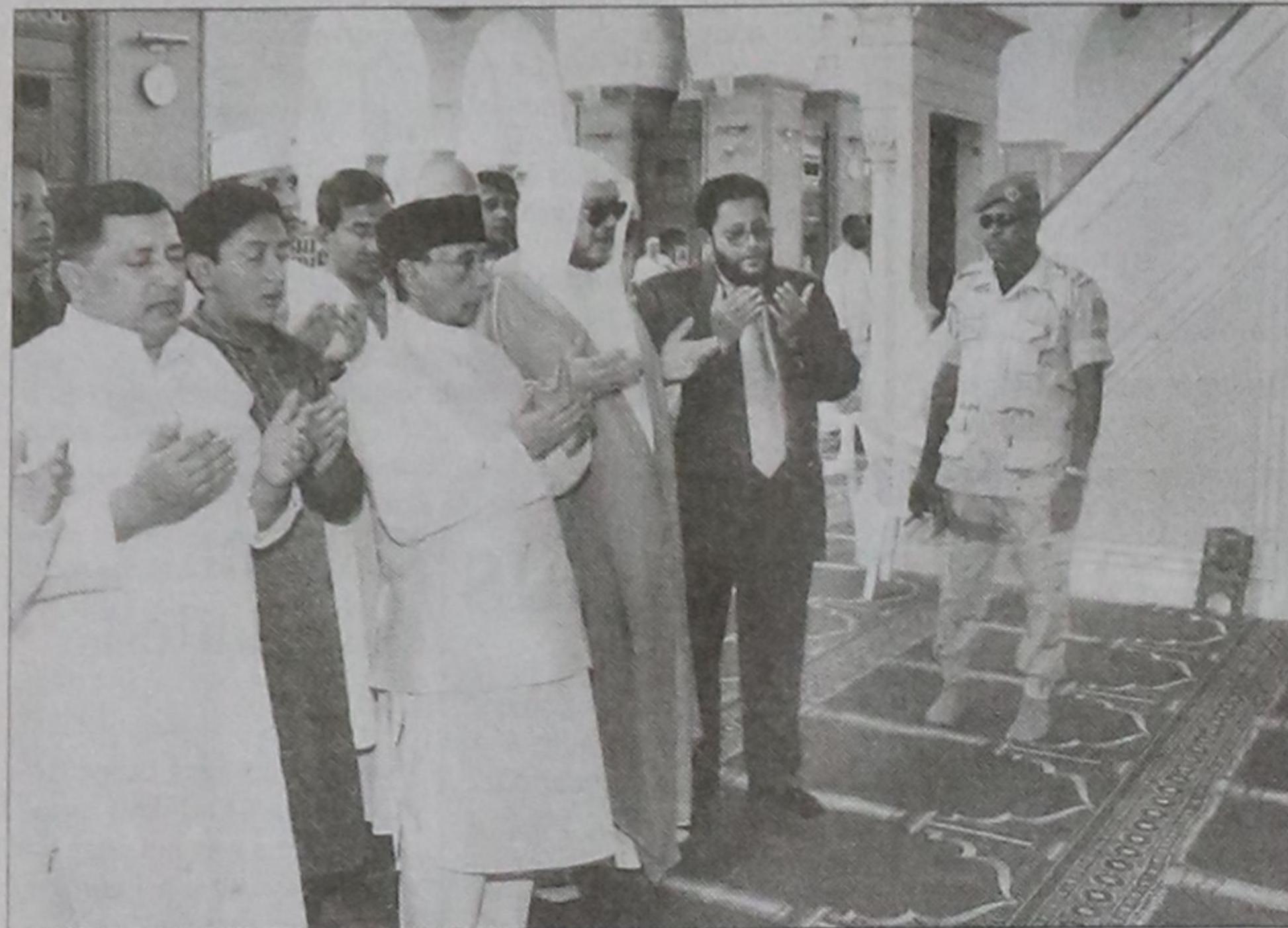
He also expressed resentment over absence of proper security measures and facilities in many of these spots.

NM Shahid Chowdhury, deputy director of the hotel, read a written statement at the press conference.



PHOTO: PID

OIC Secretary General Prof Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Friday.



President Zillur Rahman and his family members offer Fateha at Masjid-e-Kubba in Madina on Friday night. (Story on Page 5)

Mohiuddin blames Babu for attack on Ctg rally

AL lawmaker refutes allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

this end after the present AL government came to power.

"We decided to hold the public meeting to make the local people aware of development that would take place after the unions are brought under the city corporation and to know about their opinions," the mayor said.

"I also invited Babu Bhai (Aktheruzzaman) at the meeting over phone as the local lawmaker," he said.

"But Babu Bhai asked me how I was going to hold a meeting there without his permission. He also told me in a threatening tone that he would see how the meeting could be held," the mayor said.

The mayor also said that he is interested to bring the unions under the city corporation and develop them since it was his electoral pledge.

"I will also be pleased if the areas could be developed after bringing the unions under the city corporation and the local people could benefit from it," said the ALMP.

Denying the allegation of

threat, Aktheruzzaman said, "The mayor phoned me around 9:30pm on Thursday and invited me to attend the rally. But I expressed my inability to attend the meeting since I had some other appointments, including visiting Puja Mandaps."

Mohiuddin Chowdhury is not my political opponent," he added.

"I made an electoral pledge to establish a separate upazila with these five unions for the development of the areas. The planning minister recently informed me that a proposal was approved in the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council in this regard," Aktheruzzaman said, adding that the prime minister also gave him assurance in this regard.

He, however, said that he would support what the local people want.

Meanwhile, at his Surson Road residence in the city yesterday evening, Aktheruzzaman told reporters that the mayor's statements are false.

In the press briefing, Mayor Mohiuddin said a gazette notification was issued during the previous AL government to bring five unions -- Charpathar Ghat, Charlam, Baro Uthan, Shikolbaha and Jaldi -- of Chittagong-12 constituency under the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC). But the process was caught up in legal complexities.

A fresh move was taken to

CCC mayor injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury sustained injuries on his left hand and waist when he fell in his bathroom at his Chashma Hill residence in the port city last evening.

He required eight stitches on the fingers of his left hand, said CCC Zonal Medical Officer Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed.

The mayor also hurt by the waist and was now under complete rest at his residence where a team of CCC physicians were giving him treatment, headed.

The team of CCC physicians include cardiac specialist Dr Nasim Bhuiyan and orthopaedic surgeon Dr Asif among others.

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places Dhaka, Rajshahi, and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 6:49am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.0 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

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	35.0	26.0	67	63
Chittagong	33.5	26.6	73	78
Rajshahi	34.0	24.9	87	77
Khulna	34.0	26.5	79	77
Barisal	34.5	26.0	77	84
Sylhet	35.7	25.0	70	74
Cox's Bazar	34.5	26.0	73	78

Abdul Latif Khan, a freedom fighter and former chief officer of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), has been missing since September 19.

He went out of his Bakshi Bazar residence in the city around 10:00am on the day to do his personal work at Mohammadpur and Kakrail but did not return.

The last time his family members talked with him over mobile phone was 4:30pm on the day. Since then, he has not been answering mobile phone calls, despite repeated attempts.

Latif Khan, 70, was wearing a white shirt and black trousers when he went out.

A general diary has been filed with Chakbazar Police Station in this connection.

Anybody knowing about his whereabouts has been requested to call at 01711934432 to contact his family.

someone to imprisonment for those offences.

A debate arose centring if executive magistrates can be held trial of electoral offences after separation of the judiciary. The EC wrote to the Supreme Court, seeking its opinion on the matter.

The general administrative committee of the SC, headed by the chief justice, unanimously decided last December that only experienced judicial magistrates should be engaged to administer justice in cases filed for electoral offences.

"As jurisdictions of the judicial and executive magistrates are clearly delineated, the latter need not be entrusted with the authority of the former," the SC noted.

The EC then deployed judicial magistrates for trying electoral offences in the ninth parliamentary election.

The ordinance promulgated by the last caretaker government ceased to have effect in late February since it was not ratified in parliament within a specified time.

In line with the government's decision, President Zillur Rahman promulgated an ordinance on July 23 empowering executive magistrates to run mobile courts to maintain law and order. The executive law officials only got the power to impose fines for offences.

Later, the law ministry empowered executive magistrates to hold trial of electoral offences during the last parliamentary polls but they did not get the authority to sentence

The Awami League-led government also placed a bill in parliament, seeking ratification of the ordinance.

A

parliamentary standing committee on home ministry placed its scrutiny report in the House on September 15 with recommendations for passing the bill.

The general administrative committee of the SC, headed by the chief justice, unanimously decided last December that only experienced judicial magistrates should be engaged to administer justice in cases filed for electoral offences.

Legal experts, however, say after separation of the judiciary from the executive no one except judicial officials can be entrusted with judicial powers without the approval of the Supreme Court.

They say the Code of Criminal Procedure clearly specifies the functions and jurisdictions of the judicial and executive magistrates and it does not allow executive magistrates to hold trials of cases for any offences and award imprisonment to an individual.

Talking to The Daily Star

earlier, eminent jurist Shahidullah Malik said an executive magistrate can impose punishments like fines. He said handing down imprisonments should no longer lie with anyone except judicial magistrates.

"Hence, vesting power in executive magistrates or anyone, except judicial officials of the republic, is, in my opinion, unconstitutional," he said.

Under-trial prisoner dies in Faridpur

UNB, Faridpur

An under-trial prisoner died at Sadar General Hospital on Friday.

Jail sources said prisoner Aslam Bepari, 35, was rushed to hospital from the district jail at about 9:00am when he complained of acute chest pain. Later, he died of a cardiac arrest at the hospital at about 2:00pm.

Aslam's relatives alleged that he died due to torture in the jail.

Death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the 25th death anniversary of Shaheed Majeeduddin, an organiser of the Liberation War and former vice-chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

A former lawmaker and central Awami League leader, he was a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

AL and its front organisations and his family members have taken up elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The programmes include placing wreaths and offering fateha at Banani Graveyard at 9:00am. A milad mahfil will be held at Shaheed Majeeduddin Auditorium of Bangladesh Family Planning Association at Naya Paltan after Asr prayers today.

Milad mahfil and memorial meeting will also be held on Noapara Majeeduddin Adarsha High School premises in Kaliganj upazila and in Jamalpur.

Faria Lara

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Faria Lara, who was killed in a plane crash on September 27, 1998, says a press release.

Her family members have urged all to pray for the salvation of her departed soul.