

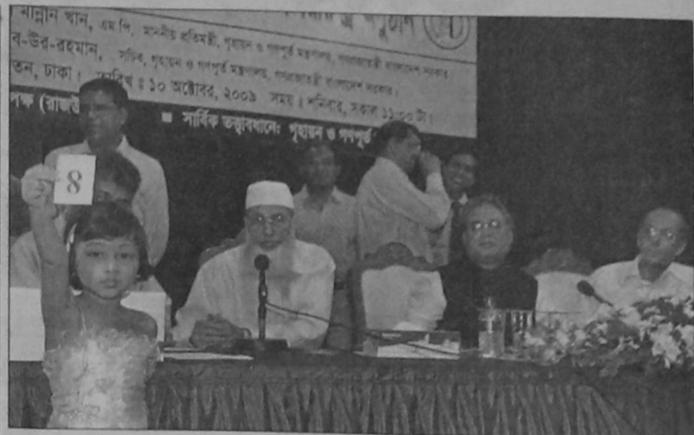
EC to propose increasing number of JS seats

BSS, Dhaka
The Election Commission (EC) will send proposal to the government, after holding talks with political parties, to raise the number of parliamentary seats by amending the constitution.

from 300.
In reply, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Dr ATM Shamsul Huda had said that the issue would be considered in future.

The number of reserved seats for women to 100 and hold direct voting for those.
Sohul Hossain said the number of parliamentary seats declined in rural areas during the last delimitation, but the rural areas need more seats for development.

The EC published the draft of 300 constituencies with 4.5 lakh population each in July last year as per the Delimitation Ordinance - 1976.
Following this, the number of seats in Dhaka city has increased to 15 from 8 and some constituencies dissolved completely.



A girl shows a ticket number of a winner at the formal draw of lotteries of Purbachal New Town Project at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday. State Minister for Public Works Advocate Abdul Mannan was present there as the chief guest. (Story on Page 1)

Khaleda, Yunus felicitate Obama

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia has congratulated US President Barack Obama on his winning the Nobel Peace Prize.
In a message on Friday, Khaleda said Obama's winning the Nobel Peace Prize as the head of state of one of the powerful countries would help establish peace across the globe.

She expressed the hope that this award would encourage Obama to play a more effective role in defusing hostilities, tension and hatred among different countries, communities, races, castes and creeds in the world.
Khaleda also congratulated the friendly people of the United States on this occasion. Prof Yunus

Prof Muhammad Yunus has also congratulated President Obama "in his receiving the greatest prize in the world -- The Nobel Peace Prize."
In a message to Obama, Prof Yunus said, "Right now you are the person with the highest chance to lead the world to establish lasting global peace. I think most of the people in the world believe in it. You made them believe in it. You are the best opportunity we ever had. Nobel Committee in Norway has just told you so, on behalf of the majority of the world, by giving you the prize."

"You have inspired the world in believing in the possibilities of achieving lasting peace in our life time. You have given people a glimpse of what is possible. You have given the world hope."

Prof Yunus added, "I am sure the world joins me in wishing you all the success in setting the stage for creating a world without war, without weapons of mass destruction, and without poverty, by using the enormous trust and love you have already acquired from all the nations of the world."

GPA-DIV SYSTEM Call to cancel discriminatory result values

Hundreds of students staged a demonstration yesterday demanding steps to eradicate discrimination between the result values of GPA and division method of SSC and HSC examinations.
They staged a protest rally in front of different education institutions, including Dhaka College, Suhrawardy College, Govt Bangla College and Tongi College under the banner 'Bangladesh Civil Students Rights Movements', says a press release.

They placed a set of demands, including cancellation of a government notification issued on June 2 and circulation of a new notice, considering the results of students who obtained 45 percent marks as 2nd class (GPA-2.00) and 60 percent as 1st class (3.10) in both the SSC and HSC exams.
They would also observe a blockade programme on the road in front of Dhaka College today, at Shahbagh on October 13 and would lay siege to the education ministry on October 14 to press home their demands.

Azad's remark on Ittefaq situation protested

Leaders of Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Karmachari Federation (BSKF) yesterday strongly protested the comment of Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad over the Ittefaq's recent situation in parliament, says a press release.
In a statement, BSKF President Motiur Rahman and Secretary General Khairul Islam expressed their deep concern over the comment of the minister in reply to a question over the issue raised by Rashed Khan Menon MP.
They sought the government intervention in resolving the untoward situation prevailing in the Ittefaq house.
The leaders feared that if the government does not take steps in this regard immediately, it might affect other newspaper houses in the country.

30 injured as soccer fans clash in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
At least 30 people, including 18 policemen, were injured in a clash centring a football match of Mayor Inter-ward Football Tournament at the MA Aziz Stadium in the port city yesterday.
Sources said the trouble started following a ruling of the referee during the semifinal between Pathantuli and Bagmonirum wards. Bagmonirum, who were trailing by a goal, scored the equalizer at the injury time.
Referee Miron first declared it valid but after seeing linesman Mamun hoisting the flag

for offside cancelled the goal and immediately blew the final whistle only to spark trouble on and off the field.
The decision was greeted with strong resentment from the players and supporters of the both teams and at one stage, the aggrieved supporters started pelting bricks from the galleries.
The angry supporters later engaged in the clash outside the stadium. They also damaged windowpanes of the stadium. Traffic movement at the roads around the stadium came to a halt during the clash.
Later, police rushed to the spot and charged batons to quell the supporters who also

attacked the police. The clash left at least 30 people, including 18 policemen, injured.
The injured policemen included Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police Station Mohiuddin Mahmud, SI Mahbubur Rahman, Sergeant Badal and Constable Anamul Haque.
Of them, constable Anamul was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and the others to the Police Hospital, said the sources.
OC Mohiuddin said they charged baton to bring the situation under control and 18 policemen were injured more or less after being hit by bricks.



Journo Mahbub Matin passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Mahbub Matin, joint news editor of private television channel 'Channel i', passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence at Siddeswari in the city sometime on Friday night at the age of 40, said family and police sources.

A Channel i official told The Daily Star that Mahbub left the Channel i office for his Siddeswari residence at 10:00pm on Friday and few minutes later he along with his wife and son went to a dinner at his in-law's house at Shantibagh. The official added that after having the dinner he returned his residence alone and his wife and son stayed at his in-law's house.
As his wife, Shaheen, did not get any response after repeated phone calls, she rushed to his house at around 12:00noon and rang the doorbell, but that too went without response.

Then she informed the matter to Mahbub's colleagues who rushed in from his nearby office and broke open the door at about 3:00pm and found Mahbub lying on his bed.
Police said a physician was called into his house and the physician declared Mahbub dead saying that he might have died of cardiac arrest.
UNB reports: Mahbub, born at Laksam in Comilla, had been working at the channel since 1999 following his post-graduation from Dhaka University in Bangla literature.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina condoled the premature death of Mahbub Matin. In a condolence message, she expressed her sympathy to the bereaved family members and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

BSS adds: BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in the parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of Mahbub.
In a condolence message, Khaleda said Mahbub was a dedicated and committed journalist. The country lost a promising newsmen at his immature death, she added.
She conveyed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.
BNP Secretary General Khondaker Delwar Hossain also condoled the death of journalist Mahbub.

BSS also adds: Presidents of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Ruhul Amin Gazi and Secretary Generals of the BFUJ Altaf Mahmud and MA Aziz yesterday expressed profound shock and sorrow at the immature death of Mahbub Matin.

Meanwhile, Presidents of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Shah Alamgir and Abdus Shahid and General Secretaries of the DUJ Omar Faruque and Baker Hossain condoled the death of Mahbub and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members.
Different organisations, including Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh, also sent separate condolence messages to his family members and prayed for salvation of this departed soul.

DUKE UNIVERSITY, USA Yunus to deliver commencement address

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus would deliver the commencement address at Duke University in the USA on May 15 next, according to an announcement of the university on Friday.

Duke President Richard H Brodhead said Duke is honoured to have Yunus speak at next year's commencement ceremony which is held at Wallace Wade Stadium on its campus and is open to the public, said a news item of the university in Durham NC.
"Recognising that entrepreneurship is a fundamental human gift, Muhammad Yunus has created a viable business model for the world's poor, using his academic training to unleash human potential around the globe," Brodhead said. "He will give our graduates an inspiring example of education's far-reaching power."

Catalina Blanco, a Duke senior from Bogota, Colombia, who was part of a group of students, advised the president on the selection of the commencement speaker, saying Yunus "was one of the people we were rooting for. I think that he stood out to all of us."
Added Taren Greenidge, a third-year law student from Rochester, NY, "I think it's so great to have someone who's so relevant today, who can impact people."
Duke would confer an honorary degree on Yunus during the function, according to a news release yesterday. Yunus is the author of books such as "Banker to the Poor: The Autobiography of Muhammad Yunus, Founder of Grameen Bank," and "Creating a World Without Poverty."

Yunus, 69, serves on the board of directors of the United Nations Foundation, a public charity created in 1998 with entrepreneur and philanthropist Ted Turner's historic \$1 billion gift to support UN causes and activities.
Yunus is also a founding board member of Grameen America, a microfinance non-profit organisation, which provides loans, savings programmes, credit establishment and other financial services to entrepreneurs living below the poverty line in the United States.
He is a founding board member of Grameen Foundation, which works to reduce poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, the Arab world and the Americas.
Yunus has served on the International Advisory Group for the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Global Commission of Women's Health, the Advisory Council for Sustainable Economic Development and the UN Expert Group on Women and Finance.

BNP protests Sec 144 on Kapasia rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP Secretary General Khondaker Delwar Hossain yesterday strongly protested the role of the law enforcement agencies for foiling a party rally at Kapasia upazila in Gazipur by imposing section 144.

In a statement, he said the government has started playing its autocratic role by destroying public meeting, rally and other political activities by imposing section 144, says a press release.
He called on the government to be refrain from doing any kind of vindictive activities.

Skill dev training held

METRO DESK
The certificate giving ceremony of the skill development training for the graduates of Vocational Training Institute of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) was held at Bangladesh Krishi Bank Training Institute auditorium in the city yesterday, says a press release.

DAM Vocational Training Institute and German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) jointly organised course for underprivileged people.
Manpower and Employment Secretary Md Ataharul Islam attended at the programme. He assured that the government would extend all-out cooperation in skill development training through private partnership.
DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam chaired the function while GTZ Progress Programme Coordinator Dr Dietrich Stotz was the chief guest.



BNP leader and former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury addresses a rally on Chittagong district council market premises yesterday protesting the decision of providing no new gas connection in Chittagong.

BANGABANDHU MURDER 'Trial to end politics of killing'

BSS, Bhola
Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun said here yesterday that the politics of terrorism and killing would stop in the country with the completion of the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu.

He was speaking at a commemorative meeting on the occasion of the 13th death anniversary of Awami League leader Obaidul Haq Babul at Kabi Mozammel Haq Town Hall here.
State Minister for Water Resources Alhaj M Mahbubur Rahman Talukdar addressed the meeting as the special guest.
Chaired by Bhola district AL President Fazlul Kader Manzu, the meeting was also

addressed, among others, by district AL general secretary Abdul Mabin Tulu, former district AL Presidents Mofazzal Hossain Shahin and Nazrul Islam Guljar, Lalmojan Upazila Chairman Nazrul Islam, and AL leaders Shahidul Haq Maznu Molla, Advocate M Shamim Al Saiful, Abul Kalam Azad and M Rahman Shakil.
Miscreants gunned down Babul on October 10, 1996 in Dhaka.
Paying tributes to the memory of the late leader, Yusuf Humayun who is also chairman of BSS managing board said, Bhola would be turned into a town of peace to materialise the dream of Babul.
He called upon all to work together to develop Bhola as an ideal town, raising above the politics of hatred and vengeance.
Industrial units would be set up in Bhola using natural gas, he added.
He warned all against indulging in extortion, tender manipulation and grabbing properties using the name of the party, and said, none would be allowed to tarnish the image of the party.
Mahbubur Rahman said, the politics of killing was encouraged through the Indemnity Ordinance after the killing of Bangabandhu.
Behind the scene conspirators are still active as they are yet to be identified, he said and added, the trial of the killings is going on and now behind the scene conspirators would have to be identified and brought to justice.

Bangabandhu murder case hearing resumes today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court (SC) will hold the hearing on the appeals in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case for fifth day today.

On Thursday, the five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Tafazzul Islam adjourned the hearing till this morning.
Barrister Abdullah al Mamun, counsel for convicts Bazlul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin, is expected to place his submission before the apex court today.

Five convicts -- dismissed army personnel Syed Faruque Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Mohiuddin Ahmed, AKM Mohiuddin, and Bazlul Huda who are now behind bars -- filed the appeals with the SC against their death sentence pronounced by the High Court (HC).
The SC started the hearing on the appeals on October 5.

Death anniversary METRO DESK

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Nasiruddin Ahmed Munna, son of Makkul Ahmed, former principal information officer and currently Director General of National Institute of Mass Communication, says a press release.
On the occasion, Quorankhwani and oca mahfil will be held at his graveyard.
Miscrants killed Nasiruddin near Mohammadpur Police Station in the city on October 11 in 1996.

INTERPOL MEET IN S'PORE TODAY New partnership to help strengthen security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A new partnership between Interpol and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) would bring together the world's police officers and the peacekeepers to help rebuild sustainable security in post-conflict countries.

The innovative partnership would be launched at the two-day ministerial meeting held during Interpol's 2009 General Assembly beginning in Singapore today, home ministry sources said.
Home Minister Sahara Khatun left the city for Singapore last night to attend the meeting where a high-level declaration for action would be generated.
Inspector General of Police

Nur Mohammad and four other senior police officers were accompanying the home minister.
By combining the strength of the two organisations, Interpol and the UN can create a powerful partnership and a wide-reaching network that would help restore peace and security.
At the meeting, a cooperation agreement is expected to lay out guidelines for future collaboration, including secondment of police officers from Interpol's 187 member countries, provision of police training and access to Interpol's tools and infrastructure.
A separate meeting for Interpol police officers would be held on October 13, 14 and 15 following the ministerial meeting.

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisa, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.