

AL ultimatum to remove Pabna DC, ADC

BCS cadre officers threaten work abstention, OC closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

District unit Awami League (AL) and its associate bodies yesterday gave an eight-day ultimatum to the authorities concerned for removal of the deputy commissioner (DC) and additional deputy commissioner (ADC Revenue) of the district.

Meanwhile, the district administration also gave a counter ultimatum to the authorities concerned to arrest the attackers or they will go for work abstention from tomorrow (Tuesday).

The district administration took the decision at an emergency meeting at the DC office last night. It also announced a series of programme protesting various activities of local Awami League carried out regarding the Friday's DC office staff recruitment examinations.

Under the programme, it will also seek mass transfers of the BCS cadre officers of the district today and wear black bandages tomorrow. The meeting also decided that a team of the district administration will go to the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka to discuss the matter.

Confirming their programme, Pabna Assistant Commissioner (land) Mostaque Ahmed told The Daily Star over phone that the DC, ADCs, all Upazila Nirbahi Officers and other BCS cadre officers of the district attended the meeting from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

ADC (general) Bijoy Bhushan Pal told The Daily Star that they have taken the programme protesting the activities carried out regarding the recruitment.

On the other, Pabna Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Atiar Rahman was closed to the Police Lines yesterday on charge of failing to discharge his duties, confirmed ASP Mosharrif Hossain Miazi.

The AL and its front organizations gave their ultimatum protesting the cases filed by the district administration against some of their leaders in connection with the Friday's attack on the two schools that halted the DC office staff recruitment examinations.

They threatened to go for a tougher agitation if DC AFM Monjur Kadir and ADC Imam Uddin Kabir are not removed by September 27.

Kamil Hossain, publicity secretary of the district AL, announced it when AL, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jubo League leaders and activists formed a human chain in front of the district AL office around 1:00pm.

The district administration filed two cases with Sadar Police Station on Friday night against over 100 people, including 28 BCL and Jubo League men, in connection with the attack.

Police on Saturday arrested one Jubo League leader in this connection.

On Friday, raising an allegation of corruption papers leak, AL men allegedly forced to halt the recruitment examinations against 17 vacant positions at the DC office.

Vehicles of the administration were vandalised and its staff were also assaulted during the attack.

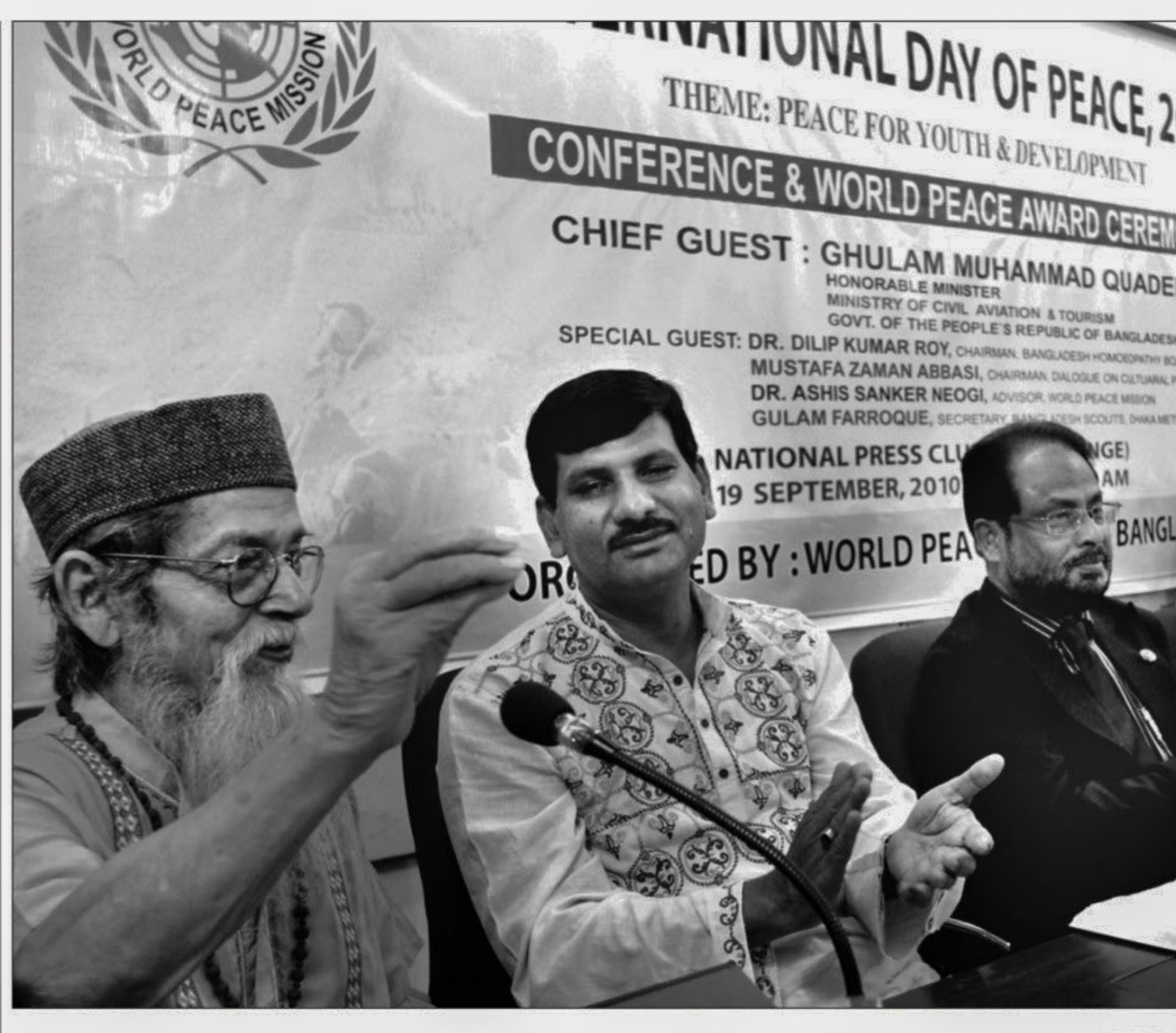
The district administration has refuted the allegations of leaking the question papers. Job seekers, who appeared for the exams postponed following the attack, earlier also told The Daily Star that they believe that the question papers were not leaked out.

There has been a dispute between local lawmaker Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince and the DC over various issues.

Pabna Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman and also upazila unit AL president Mosharrif Hossain yesterday said, "The DC does not consult with the local lawmaker regarding development works. Even, the DC does not invite the lawmaker as guest in different government programmes in the district headquarters."

Contacted, ADC Emam Uddin Kabir said, "As a government servant, we cannot say anything that creates commotion."

About the ultimatum, he said, "We are ready to go anywhere at the government's will." The DC could not be reached for his comment.



Cultural personality Subhash Dutta speaks at a conference on the occasion of International Day of Peace organised by World Peace Mission of Bangladesh at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Dilip Kumar Roy and Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Ghulam Muhammad Quader.

Power cut may increase again

UNB, Dhaka

Loadshedding is likely to increase again as the government has decided to divert gas supply to fertiliser factories from some of the power plants.

"Irrigation season is ahead. This time the country will need huge fertiliser. So, the government has decided to divert gas supply to fertiliser factories from some power plants as priority," Energy Secretary Mesbahuddin said at a press briefing yesterday at the Power and Energy Ministry in the city.

Prime Minister's Adviser Dr Taufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, who was present at the briefing, admitted that the extent of loadshedding will again go up because of the decision to divert gas supply to the fertiliser factories.

"Definitely, loadshedding will go up as there will be a slump in power production after the decision. At the same time, the demand for power will also drop in the coming winter. So, there will be some balance," he said.

The government in March this year closed most of the fertiliser factories to divert

gas supply to power plants in order to increase electricity generation.

As a result, the power production has increased and crossed the level of 4000 MW against a demand for more than 5500 MW.

Now, the closed fertiliser factories, including Jamuna Fertiliser, Ghorasal Fertiliser, Chittagong Urea Fertiliser and KAPCO will resume operation gradually.

The energy secretary said the industries ministry will be told to resume operation of the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser immediately while KAPCO will be asked to resume production within a month.

According to the PM's adviser, if these fertiliser factories resume production, power generation will decrease at least by 300-350 MW.

The energy secretary said the government decision to keep the CNG refueling stations closed six hours every day will continue for another three months despite the threat by the pump owners for a greater movement.

Power Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said that his ministry has taken a decision to set up eight more power plants having total capacity of 2600-3500 MW in the private

sector. Some of the plants will be liquid fuel-based while some of others will be coal-based.

This will be an addition to the government's plan to install power plants with total capacity of 11,000 MW by 2015, he informed.

Azad said about 60-70 proposals from the private sector entrepreneurs, who are keen to set up small power plants, are pending with the power ministry.

He claimed that despite a moratorium on new power connections in Dhaka, the electricity demand grew 17 per cent in recent days.

The power secretary said the battery-run new three wheelers played a major role in increasing the electricity demand as they alone consume 300 MW. But he could not say how many battery-run three wheelers are now plying in the city.

However, many officials in the power sector, preferring anonymity, differed with the power secretary.

"The growth of the battery-run three wheelers is not significant to justify the secretary's claim," said an official of the Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC).

Move to clean Dhaka rivers

Govt to procure 'garbage eater,' says BIWTA chairman

BSS, Dhaka

The government is going to procure two units of excavanza, a modern equipment known as 'garbage eater' from the USA to clean water and lift waste from the rivers around the capital.

The Tk 50-crore equipment will reach the country in early 2011 to remove waste from the Buriganga, the Balu, the Turag and the Shitalakha, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Chairman Abdul Malek Mian told the news agency.

To this end, a Tk 55-crore project is expected to be approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) in October to procure the equipment to make the rivers pollution-free by lifting waste, demarcation of boundaries and construction of infrastructures, he said.

The project is already included in the

annual development programme of the current fiscal year and the tender process would be completed within December this year after approval by the Ecneec.

Then the equipment would be procured to start lifting of waste from the rivers around Dhaka in January 2011.

The BIWTA chairman said US company Excavanza 2000 Limited has given a proposal to supply the world famous modern equipment excavanza. This equipment can make pollution-free 10,000 litres of water per hour and mixes oxygen with water.

He said efforts are being made to rejuvenate the rivers around Dhaka in the same process the Miami in the US and the Thames in the UK were made pollution-free.

The BIWTA chief said now about 1400-1800 cubic feet waste is being lifted from four points in the Buriganga everyday.

The second phase of lifting waste

through the process will resume in full sewing in October when the flow of water will decline.

The BIWTA has fixed a target of lifting 48 lakh cft of waste from the Buriganga, the Turag, the Balu and the Shitalakha.

After this, more waterbuses will be pressed into service on circular route around Dhaka and two terminals would be set up at Kanchpur and Tongi.

The BIWTA chairman said the dredging of the rivers would also go on at the same time.

BIWTA Chief Engineer Abdul Matin said the modern excavanza will soak all waste in the river and make room for oxygen in the water.

He said, as per the recommendation of the taskforce on environment, a proposal is under consideration of the law ministry to enact a law to stop dropping of waste in the rivers.

Tk 2 crore foreign currencies seized at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Airport customs personnel recovered foreign currencies worth around Tk 2 crore from

a Dubai-bound passenger at Shahjalal International Airport (SIA) in the city yesterday.

The passenger was identified as Mohammad Jahangir, 40, of Fatikchhari in Chittagong. He was trying to fly Dubai by an Emirates flight at around 8:30pm.

The customs officials cut open his luggage on suspicion and recovered the currencies of Saudi, Emirates and Qatar worth around Tk 2 crore.

Preferring anonymity a police official in the airport said Jahangir has been living in Dubai for 20 years and used to make frequent trips between the two countries.

Contractors counted out alleged corruption and irregularities in awarding a Tk 1.40-crore contract to a ruling Awami League man yesterday.

According to them, a lottery is necessary to decide who to get a contract when all bidders mention the same amount in response to a tender.

They said construction of a park on the bank of the Mera (dead) Madhumati River went to an AL man with the rules ignored as all of them bid for the contract seeking similar amount.

On August 24, the bidding was opened, but Executive Engineer Sirajul Haq, after a period of delay, awarded the contract to Mahmudul Haq Miltan yesterday, in consideration of money and power.

The contractors demanded floating of re-tender after the cancellation of the contract awarded to Miltan.

Arrest of Golam Azam at any moment

Says investigation officer

BSS, Dhaka

Former Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam may be arrested at any moment on charge of committing crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Investigation officer of the International Crimes Tribunal Abdul Razzaque told journalists at his Bailey Road residence in the city yesterday.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) M Nurul Islam and Inspector Shyamol Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

Razzaque said investigation have begun against 20 identified war criminals. Necessary inquiries have already been completed in Brahmanbaria, Mymensingh, Sherpur and Jamalpur districts. During the inquiry, the investigation officials talked to the affected people.

Computer hacking: Who benefits?

ALJAZEERA ONLINE

Internet hackers and software companies from around the world are staging mock cyber wars at a major web security event in Europe.

Some 1,000 participants are taking part in the two-day Hactivity 2010 conference in the Hungarian capital Budapest that started on Saturday. The conference comes at a time of mounting concern over software piracy and other cyber crimes. Espionage is fast becoming the 21st century tool for hacking.

Software companies these days use hackers to see how secure their new programs are - hackers benefit by learning their tricks.

"There are not many systems these days that cannot be hacked. It is a matter of time and investment," Felix F-X Linder, a cyber security specialist, told Al Jazeera from the conference in Budapest. "Luckily, due to the many years of work in computer security, it is getting harder to hack systems."

Mitch Altman, a hacker from the US, will present a workshop on computer hardware, while Bruce Scheier, a world-renowned cyber security expert, opened the conference with a keynote speech.

At the leisure zone, where "nerds" at the conference go to relax, participants can test their ability to break into systems and take control of foreign computers in a variety of games, from Hack the Vendor to Capture the Flag.

According to a recent study by the cyber security firm Norton, 65 per cent of all computers users have been the victims of cyber crime. The worst hit country is China, where 83 per cent of users have been hit by some form of cyber crime. In Brazil and India that number is 76 per cent.

CRUEL INTENTIONS

Malicious computer use such as virus writing and hacking cost businesses globally more than \$1 trillion each year, according to a study from computer security company McAfee. The projection is based on responses to a survey of more than 800 chief information officers of companies around the world.

The respondents estimated that in 2008 they lost data worth a total of \$4.6bn and spent about \$600 million cleaning up after breaches, McAfee said.

The recent recession is only increasing the security risk for corporations, respondents said, with 42 per cent reporting that displaced workers were the biggest threat to sensitive information on the network.

More than one quarter of the respondents said they avoid storing data in China, and 47 per cent of Chinese respondents said they believed the US poses the biggest security threat to their data.

The research also indicates that more and more vital digital information, such as intellectual property and sensitive customer data, is being transferred between companies and continents - and lost. The average company has \$12 million worth of sensitive information residing abroad.

Companies lost on average \$4.6 million worth of intellectual property each year.

TALIBAN HACKED

Business, government and regular computer users are not the only ones dealing with hackers: the Taliban is also facing the problem. The so-called Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan faced an attack in June 2010, Wired magazine reported.

Abu al-Aina a al-Khorasani, an administrator with what Wired calls an "elite jihadist forum endorsed by the Taliban", has cautioned users to be careful of recent activity.

Khorasani said that the "group's main site and the site of its online journal Al-Sumud, have been subjected to an infiltration operation".

On the Falluja forum, Khorasani warns online Islamists "to not enter any of the links of these website and not to even surf [the material] until you receive the confirmed news by your brothers, Allah-willing", Wired reported.

The Taliban websites have been hacked before, but the latest job should be particularly concerning to the group, Evan Kohlmann, a computer analyst with Flashpoint Partners, said.

"[T]his would be the first instance that I'm aware of it being actually 'infiltrated'," Kohlmann told Wired.

"It's an unsettling prospect for security-minded online jihadists, because such sites can be manipulated by a variety of hostile parties in order to harvest a breathtaking amount of personal data on regular visitors."

VICTIMS IGNORANT

Generally people do not take cyber threats very seriously and most people who have been hacked do not even know it. They forget that by using unsecured Wi-Fi hotspots they are essentially shouting their information to the world.

Every access point into a system like Bluetooth or other communication software can be used by savvy cyber criminals to steal information or to implant malicious software. The average laptop could contain data worth around \$1 million, according to research by security software company Symantec.

The same research shows that just 42 per cent of companies automatically back up employees' emails, where often critical data is stored, and 45 per cent leave it to the individual to do so.

Last laptops have been the bane of existence of many companies and countries alike. The most infamous instance of loss of laptop occurred in 1990 when a British Royal Air Force officer had a computer stolen from the boot of his car. It contained a top secret plan to drive the Iraqi army out of Kuwait after it had invaded the Gulf country in August 1990.

In January 2008 a British Royal Navy officers was court-martialled after a laptop containing the personal data of 600,000 people, including serving personnel, was stolen from his car. The non-encrypted data included bank account numbers and passport details, national insurance numbers and home addresses.

Bangladeshi tops Quran competition

UNB, Dhaka

A Bangladeshi boy from Brahmanbaria, Maulana Saiful Islam, showed his brilliance in an international Tafsirul Quran competition held in Amman, capital of Jordan, standing first to win glory from among participants from 60 countries.

He was awarded the equivalent of Tk 5 lakh in cash, alongside a crest and certificate, which he received from the Jordanian Minister for Religion, representing the king of Jordan.

Urs

METRO DESK

Annual urs of Hazrat Shah Abdur Rahim (RH) Shah Saheb of Paribag will be held on Paribag Mazar premises in the city on September 24, says a press release.

Munazat will be offered at 11:00am.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:57pm today and rises at 5:47am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and Rangamati and lowest 24.2 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	29.8	26.0	88	79
Chittagong	32.0	25.1	72	92
Rajshahi	32.2	25.0	87	82
Khulna	29.6	25.2	88	97
Barisal	28.1	25.0	100	95
Sylhet	32.8	25.0	85	83
Cox's Bazar	32.2	25.0	72	83

Expedite govt initiatives to develop agri sector: Azad

BSS, Dhaka

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday called for united efforts to expedite government's initiatives taken to develop agriculture sector.

The incumbent government, friendly to agriculture, is determined to continue farmers' development, said Azad while inaugurating "Rat Killing Drive 2010" at Khamarbari in the city.

Since food security, increase in living standard, and job arrangement for huge population are connected with agriculture, the government is carrying on all-out efforts for development of the sector, he added.

The minister said cooperation is necessary for resolving problem with rats, which very often damage crops grown at the cost of hard labour by farmers.

M Fazlul Karim, director of Agriculture Extension Department, chaired the programme while CQK Mushtaque Ahmed, agriculture secretary, and M Khalequzzaman Akand, director of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Centre, spoke among others.