

What's on today....

Discussion meet: A discussion meeting and a colourful rally will be held to mark the 10th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Chhatra-Jubo Olkya Parishad. Syed Hassan Imam, chairman, Mukti Juddher Chetona Bastobayon and Jatiyo Samoy Committee, will be present as chief guest. Venue: TSC Road Is-land, Dhaka University campus. Time: 10 am.

Seminar: Neuro-Science Institute, a project of Prof B Chowdhury Welfare Trust, has organised a seminar on 'Gamma Knife Surgery'. Venue: Winter Garden, Sheraton Hotel. Time: 11:30 am.

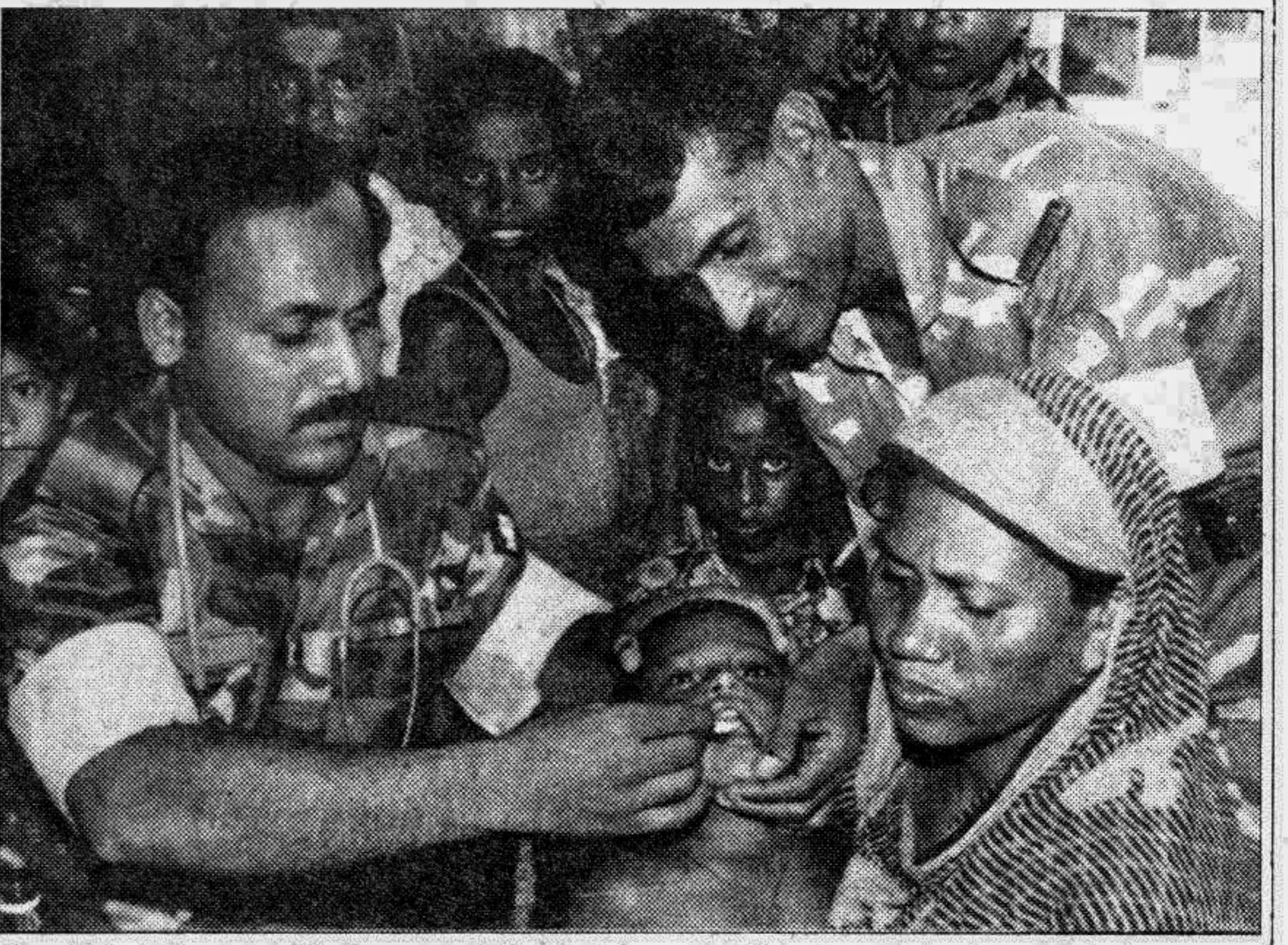
Workshop: Power and Participation Research Centre has organised a day-long workshop on 'Local Government in the New Millennium'. Venue: PPRC office premises, House No: 19 (Ground Floor), Road No: 13A, Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

Clinical meet: Z H Sikder Cardiac Care and Research Centre has organised a clinical meeting on 'newer antiplatelet drugs in heart disease'. Keynote speaker: Dr Hassan Sharif. Venue: Conference Hall of the centre, Monica estate, West Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

Inaugural ceremony: The inaugural ceremony of the operation of the TechnoVista Limited, an IT business firm and a business partner of Pentafour, the leading software exporter of India, will be held. Chief guest: Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria. Venue: Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 7 pm.

Musical soiree: Lily Islam and Golam Sanowar Chowdhury will render Tagore songs on the rainy season. Venue: Main auditorium of the National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 6:45 pm.

Discussion: On the occasion of Fatah-e-Yasaddah, a discussion meeting on Boro Pir Gousul Azam Abu Muhammad Mohiuddin Syed Abdul Kadir Zilani Rahamatullah Alaihi and Kadaria Tarika, organised by Anzuman-E-Toziaz, will be held today after Magrib prayers. Venue: Khankay Toziaz, 27, Siddheshwari Road.



Bangladesh Army medical team rendering services at a centre in flood affected Devpur in Comilla district yesterday. — Star photo

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions till 6 pm today, reports BUNB.

Met office expected moderately heavy falls at places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period.

The country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 23.8 degrees at Satkhera.

The sun sets today at 6:46 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:24 am.

Maximum and minimum 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	32.2	26.5	75	85
Chittagong	32.0	25.4	80	89
Rajshahi	32.8	25.8	88	83
Khulna	32.7	25.5	81	81
Barisal	31.2	25.0	81	88
Sylhet	32.0	25.7	86	78
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0	85	86



An 11-member children delegation left for Japan yesterday to take part in the Asia-Pacific children's conference.



Residents of the city's Kalabagan area brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the arrest of Shafiqul Alam Firoz, vice president of Kalabagan Krira Chakra and a businessman. — Star photo

Rotary News

Weekly meeting

The 744th regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today at 1:30 pm at "Family Lounge", Dhaka Club.

Rotarians are cordially invited to visit for make-up and fellowship", says press release.

Projanmo '71 protests arrest of its member

The Projanmo '71, an organisation of the children of the martyrs of Liberation War, yesterday strongly protested the arrest of its central member and Convenor of Rangpur unit Dev Das Ghosh Debu, reports BSS.

In a statement Shahin Rezaur and Farjana Chowdhury Nipa, president and general secretary respectively of Projanmo '71, expressed their dismay that Debu was being arrested and tortured repeatedly in a false case filed by anti-liberation elements.

They alleged that anti-liberation elements in the administration were out to destroy the pro-liberation forces.



Members of the Kabotakkah Theatre brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday marking its 6th founding anniversary. — Star photo

Call for holding trial of killers of Bangabandhu, 4 leaders before polls

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion on Tajuddin Ahmed yesterday demanded that the trial of the killers of four national leaders and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman should be completed before the next general election.

The common people are sorry to find that the process of trial of the killers of Bangabandhu and the four national leaders are going on at snail's pace. There should be efforts to expedite the trial of the cases and complete those immediately," said Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid.

Dr Atiur Rahman described the political and personal life of Tajuddin Ahmed and underscored the need for proper realisation of his contribution to the nation.

Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam said the nation will be rootless as water-hyacinth if we are not conscious about the contribution of Tajuddin Ahmed and our debt to him.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui said Tajuddin Ahmed's diary reminds us of the profound relationship between politics and intellect.

Tajuddin Ahmed was elected Prime Minister of the Mujibnagar government in 1971 and led the country in absence of Bangabandhu during the Liberation War. He worked as Finance Minister of the liberated country till October 26, 1974.

Tajuddin Ahmed, was brutally killed by the agents of illegal power usurpers on November 3, '75 inside the Dhaka Central Jail.

He became editor of the now defunct Dainik Bangla and worked in that capacity till 1997. He was also director general of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB).

Humayun was president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ) for two terms and a member of the First Wage Board Commission for journalists.

He was awarded the prestigious Ekushey Padak in 1987 for journalism.

He wrote a number of books, including Single Column Double Column, Alef Miar Prithibi and Biporit Sroteri Rabindranath.

Meanwhile, BNP chairperson and opposition leader DU convocation deferred

Ships disappear

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ance of MV Zoom Ocean, port sources said.

Sources in the shipping circles attributed the disappearance of many foreign vessels to delay in providing berthing facilities and poor port services as well as negligence of custom officials in checking ships.

But Harbour Master of Chittagong port Qamruzz Islam, when contacted, denied that delay in providing berthing facilities made the ships flee. Dispute among the ships owners, charterers and consignees was the cause, he claimed.

He said it is not possible to check disappearance of vessels without developing better surveillance through introduction of a 'vessel traffic control system', supported by combat boats.

Such a system, new in use in ports in developed countries, involves a huge amount of money, he said.

Commissioner of Chittagong Customs House Abul Kasem said showcase notices are being issued on custom officers and shipping agents concerned.

Ahmed Humayun dead

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Khaleda Zia has expressed profound shock at the death of Ahmed Humayun.

In a message of condolence yesterday, she said late Ahmed Humayun was a brilliant and patriotic journalist and also an organiser of writers and newsmen.

His sharp writings, courageous presentation and tireless struggle for freedom of press will remain forever as glaring example in our national life," she said.

Amanullah Kabir and MA Aziz, president and general secretary respectively of BFUJ and Abu Saleh and Ruhul Amin Gazi, acting president and general secretary respectively of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) in a statement mourned the death of veteran journalist Ahmed Humayun.

The leaders said his death was an irreparable loss to the nation.

Boy held

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costs more than Tk 20,000.

While giving statement to the police, Ujjal said he found the gun abandoned in a vegetable garden near the rail station.

But SI Sujaul Huq, the investigating officer of the case, suspected that the local hoodlums were grooming the boy up so that he could later become a member of their band.

Ujjal was produced before the CMM's Court yesterday and later taken to the Dhaka Central Jail. A case was filed under Arms Act with GRP thana in this regard.

Biman's plane

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landing on foam. But the request was denied. He then radioed similar request to Heathrow, London, which was also turned down. Both airports said they had a busy schedule.

Finally, the pilot decided to land at Dhaka.

He managed to land at 7:45 a.m. yesterday using extreme caution and skill. He kept most of the load on the back wheels before lowering the nose wheel without much pressure, bringing the aircraft slowly on the taxiway, the sources said.

It was a textbook landing under such a situation, a Biman flight commander said.

700 outlaws

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The remaining terrorists will be rooted out through a massive joint operation. The operation will start immediately after the midnight of July 30, he said, once again urging the remaining terrorists to avail the opportunity.

He however reiterated the government's assurance that those who surrendered would be rehabilitated.

Home Secretary Saifur Rahman said at the function that recruitment of former outlaws in Ansar will continue.

IGP A Y B I Siddiqui also addressed the function, presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia Abdus Salam.

The firearms include 2 sten-guns, six 303 rifles, 45 foreign-made guns, 140 home-made guns, 1 foreign pistol, 35 home-made pistols, 4 foreign revolvers, 22 home-made revolvers, 26 Indian rifles, 137 shatter-guns and 154 pigeons.

So far, some 1290 outlaws surrendered to the government.

Private banks

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proved private bank.

Some of the new banks are also trying to hire efficient bankers from abroad.

Rouf Chowdhury, Chairman of the newly approved Bank of Asia, had told The Daily Star earlier that he was looking for a managing director having long experience in corporate banking abroad.

Former governor of Bangladesh Bank Lutfar Rahman Sarkar has joined Mercantile Bank as chief adviser. The bank was formally opened last month.

The Bank One Limited just launched has hired former managing director of Dhaka Bank Ashfaq Uddin Chowdhury as its chief executive.

Farid Uddin Ahmed, who has joined the newly opened Standard Bank as managing director, was managing director of NCCB earlier.

Officials of nationalised commercial banks (NCBs), however, are not showing much interest in joining the new banks for what they say 'lack of job security' in the private ventures. "Only a few lower level NCB officials are joining the new banks," a senior official said.

The private banks in the offing include Premier Bank Limited, First Securities Bank Limited, Bengal Export Import Bank Ltd, BRAC Bank Ltd and Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.

don't like to disclose everything now as we are waiting to arrest the 'big shots' behind this gruesome murder'.

"We have already arrested three persons who were hired to kill Jibran, son of West Bengal IGP, and two of them, identified as Ali Akbar and Zillur Rahman, yesterday gave their confession statements before the court CID ASP said. The another person, identified as Kiron, is expected to give confession statement soon, he added.

Jibran, 28, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Agrabad commercial area on June 9 while returning to his residence at Kulshi by driving his own car.

The case was handed over to CID police for investigation.

Dhaka-Calcutta bus service generates enthusiasm

national Bus Terminal at Kamalapur said.

In the last 14 days, the service operated for 12 days as because of weekly holiday on Sundays. BRTC and Shamoli each had 12 trips equally divided into two directions.

Two other buses of the West Bengal Surface Transportation Corporation (WBSTC) named 'Saubharya' were being operated on the route every day except Sundays.

Talking to BSS, Chairman of BRTC Azmol Chowdhury said the initial phase of the commercial bus service could be termed 'good' as no obstacle or problem has arisen so far. He said "we are monitoring the operation of the service and after three months the whole things will be reviewed."

He said BRTC authorities are planning to introduce night coach service on the route on completion of three months to avoid day-time hassles and also to shorten the duration of the journey. He said their counterpart WBSTC had on principle agreed with the proposal.

Some of the passengers of the direct bus service, on their arrival at the International Bus Terminal on July 20, said the overall journey was good except the hazards of customs and immigration checking at the border points of both sides.

"I thought immigration and customs formalities would be done at the starting point. Had it been possible, then the journey would be really fine," Merinda D Costa, an Indian national (student) who came here for the first time, opined.