

What's on today . . .

Rally: Gano Forum has arranged a rally to protest against police and pro-government terrorist attack on its 'human chain' and proposed public security act. Venue: Mukhtang. Time: 3:00 pm.

and tomorrow

Seminar: A two-day international seminar on "Quaternary Development and Coastal Hydrodynamics of the Ganges Delta in Bangladesh" will be inaugurated. Venue: Bangladesh Petroleum Institute (BPI) auditorium, Plot 5A, Sector 8, Uttara. Time: 9:30 am.

ICC workshop: International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh will organise the inaugural session of a workshop on "Letters to Credit in Practice with Associated Products". Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10:00 am.

Loan distributions: Krishi Bank will begin the 4th phase of its loan distribution under slum-dwellers rehabilitation programme "Ghore Phara". Chief guest: SAMS Kibria, Minister for Finance. Venue: Krishi Bank Bhaban, 83-85, Motijheel. Time: 10:25 am.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

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

Moderately heavy falls is expected at one or two places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions during the period, said the Met Office.

Day temperature may fall by one or two degree Celsius, it added.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 34.2 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 24.2 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:59 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46 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 31.2 25.0 95 85

Chittagong 32.5 25.7 78 85

Rajshahi 32.1 25.9 87 94

Khulna 34.0 26.8 81 98

Barisal 32.7 26.4 86 97

Sylhet 31.7 24.7 98 83

Cox's Bazar 31.5 25.0 85 85

HERE and THERE

Central Women's University

The Orientation Programme of the freshmen of Central Women's University was held recently.

Begum Kulsum Huda, former Associate Professor of Dhaka University and Member of Board of Trustees of Central Women's University presided over the function.

The Registrar of the University, Prof. Mehrunnisa Ahmed welcomed the students and introduced them to the acting Vice-Chancellor AM Ahsanullah, former Secretary of P T & T Ministry and presently Treasurer and member, Board of Trustees of Central Women's University. Prof. Sardar Fazlul Karim, Dean of the Department of Social Science of the University, Prof. Latifa Akanda former Professor of Dhaka University, Prof. Mesbah-Ul-Saleheen, Prof. Mirza Mofizuddin of Jahangirnagar University, Prof. Kamrunnahr Vice-Principal of Central Women's College and Head of the Department of Political Science and others.

They all spoke about the aims and objectives of the institution as the only Women's University in Bangladesh to impart higher education to women.

BCS (Economic) Officers' Assoc

Prime Minister's Advisor on the Ministry of Establishment Khandaker Asaduzzaman yesterday asked all concerned to remain alert against the opposition politics, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at the Annual General Meeting of the BCS (Economic) Officers' Association at the NEC conference room, Mr. Asaduzzaman said that the present opposition parties were now agitating not to deliver goods to the people but to obtain power.

Asaduzzaman said that anomalies, if any, would be removed from the government service. He said equality would be brought in the government cadre services on the basis of efficiency and merit.

Presided over by President of the Association Dr MA Mabud the function was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khar Alamgir, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Planning HN Ashkur Rahman

MP, Secretary of the Planning Commission Abdul Hamid Chowdhury and general secretary of the association M Rafiqul Islam.

In his speech, Dr Alamgir said there was no alternative to professional training to raise efficiency of the government officers.

Telephone Subscribers Assoc

In order to avoid illegal billing and harassment by the line men and to ensure real telephone services in the country, a 11-member Telephone Subscribers Association (TSA) was formed at a local hotel yesterday headed by Enayet Karim and Samul Alam Zulfikar as Convener and Co-convener respectively, says a press release.

The other members of the association are: Nasir Uddin Sarker, Matin Uddin Bhuiyan, Hemayet Uddin, Rosy Begum, Mohammed Ahsanullah, Zulfikar Mahmud Ratan, Iqbal Mahmud and Shamsuddin Ahmed.

The TSA will form a national standing committee within a month in Dhaka.

The association has chalked out a 7-point demand including privatisation of the T&T Board to ensure real telephone services to clients.

NIPORT

A weeklong short-term training on Population Dynamic for Demographers and Family Welfare Personnel of India concluded at the NIPORT auditorium yesterday, reports UNB.

Seventeen participants from India took part in this training, sponsored by WHO with joint collaboration of International Institute of Population Studies of India and National Institute of Population and Research Training (NIPORT) Bangladesh.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony, Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf said the training between the two friendly neighbouring countries would open a new era in understanding and sharing common problems, particularly in the field of health and family welfare sectors.

WHO representatives in Bangladesh Dr Hardotanejo and Director General of the NIPORT Md Shafiuddin Ahmed spoke on the occasion.

DU teachers' orientation course begins

A 12-day orientation course for lecturers of Dhaka University was inaugurated yesterday with a call for upholding the image of the country's highest seat of learning through discharging the duty vested upon them, reports BSS.

Vice-chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury inaugurated the course at the DU's Institute for Education and Research and said this orientation course would help these young teachers get familiarised with the glorious past as well as administrative and academic programmes of the university.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Md Shahadat Ali presiding over the inaugural session expressed the hope that the young teachers would try to teach their students of the highest standard and keep it up throughout their professional career.

A total of 31 lecturers are taking part in this orientation course, the press release said.

Leena's exhibition extended to September 22

The solo painting exhibition of Yasmin Ara Leena has been extended till September 22 in response to the requests by the visitors and hartal, reports UNB.

The week-long exhibition began on September 10 at Gallery-21 in Dhanmondi and was to be concluded on September 16.

Leena is a speech-impaired artist. She has completed training on technical education from Kalyani Mentally Retarded Foundation after having education up to class VII.

She is currently a technical teacher of the Foundation. The exhibition has been jointly organised by Gallery-21 and Nazim Art Centre, a painting school.

Combing operation 1004 arrested

A total of 1004 persons were arrested and one illegal weapon with four rounds of bullet seized yesterday on the 149th day of the countrywide combing operation by police, Bangladesh Rifles and Armed forces, reports BSS.

They arrested 467 people accused in different cases from across the country including the four metropolitan areas and seized the arms and ammunition. They also arrested 536 wanted accused during the drive.

Of them, 159 persons including 30 warrantees were held from Dhaka metropolitan area, 16 including two warrantees from Chittagong metropolitan area, eight including one wanted person from Khulna metropolitan area and 11 including four warrantees from Rajshahi metropolitan area.

A total of 196 persons including 121 wanted accused were held from Dhaka range, 185 including 123 wanted persons from Chittagong range, 195 including 130 warrantees from Rajshahi range with one illegal weapon and four bullets, 141 including 56 wanted persons from Khulna range, 40 including 28 warrantees from Barisal range and 53 including 41 wanted persons from Sylhet range.

Photo Journalists' Assoc roundtable on Sept 25

Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association will hold a roundtable on "Photo Journalism in Bangladesh: Hurdles and Challenges of the New Millennium," on Sept 25 at the VIP Lounge of the Jatiya Press Club, says a press release.

Editors of different dailies, politicians, members of journalist bodies, NGO representatives and defence personnel will be among those who will participate in the roundtable.

New RU student advisor

RAJSHAHI, Sept 18: Dr Chowdhury Sarwar, Assistant Professor of Geology and Mining Studies Department of Rajshahi University, has been appointed as Student Advisor of the University, reports UNB.

He took up the charge today as additional responsibility.

Freire's birth anniversary today

Today is the 78th birth anniversary of Paulo Freire, a radical Brazilian educator known for his methods of using everyday words and ideas to teach non-literates to read—and to be critically inquisitive about prevailing social and political systems, says a press release.

Freire refined the traditional education methods beginning in the late 1950s during literacy campaigns among the peasants in the poverty-stricken northeast of Brazil. By the late 1980s, Freire's techniques had been put into use in the United States by black, Hispanic and feminist organisations carrying out literacy programmes or training teachers.

Freire died on the May 2, 1997 leaving behind a legacy of an education of political nature for the emancipation of the oppressed people.

An article on this legendary figure will be published tomorrow.

Cancel proposed education policy: Student bodies

Different student organisations brought out processions and held rallies on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding cancellation of proposed National Education Policy.

Bangladesh Chhatra Federation (BCF), Biploby Chhatra Moitry (BCM), Jatiya Chhatra Dal (JCD), Chhatra Oikya Forum (JOF) and Biploby Chhatra Sangha (BCS) jointly held a rally at Aporajee Bangla, following a procession on the campus at noon.

Addressing the rally, the leaders said that according to the proposed National Education Policy poor students will not be able to continue their studies. They urged upon the student community to resist the

proposed education policy.

Among others, Zonaid Saki, ABM Shamsul Haq, Prokash Datta, Reza Sahed Al Huda Rajat, Sahidul Islam Sabul and Jesmin Ara Pinki addressed the rally.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) also held a rally in front of the Madhu's canteen to press home the same demand.

The DU unit of BCF brought out a procession and held a rally in front of the Madhu's canteen at noon. The leaders said, "government is patronising madrassah education system more than the general education, which is producing religious fanatics."

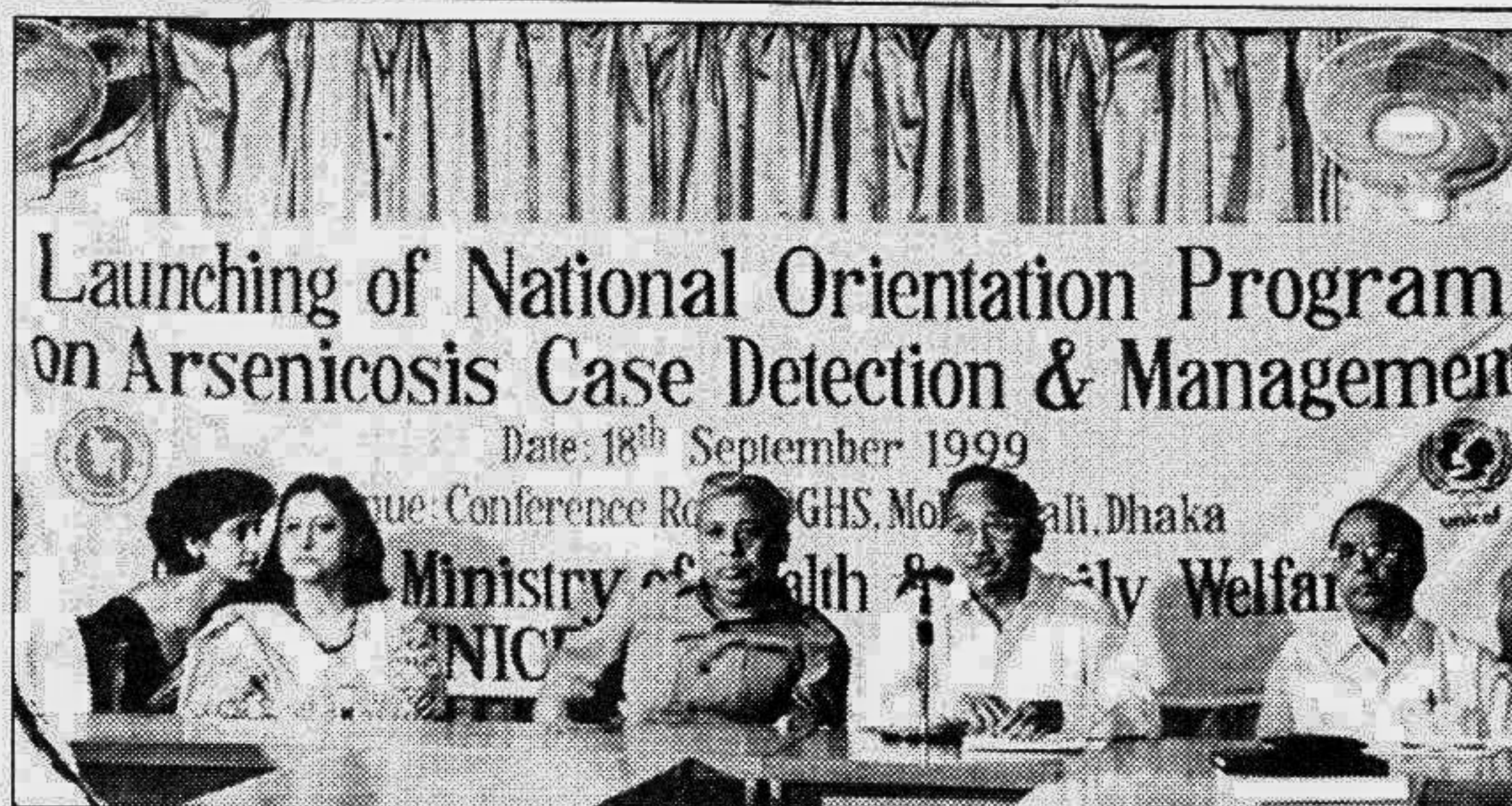
The rally was addressed, among others, by Nasir Uddin, Iftekhar Aib and Neeru Mo-

hammad.

Meanwhile, on the third day of six-day long Education Conference yesterday, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) held two discussions at the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) of the university.

"Education philosophy and privatisation" and "Boundless higher education and present perspective".

Among others, former DU vice chancellor Moniruzzaman Mia, Prof. Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Col. (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, Prof. Saidur Rahman, Prof. Mesbah Kamal, Dr. Rafiqullah Khan and student leaders addressed the programme.



The launching ceremony of UNICEF supported National Orientation Programme on Arsenicosis Case Identification and Management was held at the conference room of the Directorate General of Health Services yesterday.

Solo violin concert today

By Staff Correspondent

A solo classical violin concert and an orchestration titled "Emotion" will be held at Indian Cultural Centre auditorium at 7 pm today.

Nusrat Mumtaz Ruposhi, who obtained her Bachelor and Masters on performing arts in violin from the MS University of Baroda in India, will perform the solo concert. The function has been organised by the Khatakaly Sangeet Bidyalaya, said a release.

Ruposhi who obtained first class in her Bachelors and first class first position in Masters in her faculty, is specialised in Uttar Hindustani Rags in violin. She performed several successful solo concerts in India as well.

Woman commits suicide

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 18: A mother of two children allegedly committed suicide at DIB colony of Adamjee Jute Mills on Friday night after an argument with her husband, reports UNB.

According to police, Hasna Banu, 30, wife of Alauddin went to work cinema show on TV in a neighbouring house on Friday night. On her return home, Alauddin rebuked her and forbidden her to go to other's house to watch TV. The wife and husband engaged in bitter quarrel over the trifle matter.

Later, when Alauddin went out, Hasna Banu committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of the house.

A case was filed with the police in this regard.

UNDP report on human dev to be launched today

By Staff Correspondent

The Islamabad-based Mahbub-ul-Haq centre for Human Development in Collaboration with UNDP will launch its Report on Human Development in South Asia 1999 today.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria will attend the launching ceremony as chief guest at the IDB Bhaban auditorium, said a press release.

President of the HDC Khadija Haq will formally present the report at the function. This will be the third reports of Human Development in South Asia by the HDC.



The member of Pakistan Tea Board arranged a press conference at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Quamrul elected CEJA Chairman

Chairman of Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) Quamrul Islam Chowdhury has been elected Chairman of the Colombo-based Commonwealth Environmental Journalists Association (CEJA) and Secretary-General of Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ) at the just concluded five-day APFEJ-CEJA Comilla Congress, says a press release.

The joint Congress, presided over by Quamrul Chowdhury, also decided to shift CEJA headquarters from Colombo in Sri Lanka to Dhaka.

Quamrul Chowdhury, a leading environment journalist of repute, is also a member of the Paris-based International Federation of Environmental Journalists (IFEJ).

BDRCS distributes relief goods in Chandpur

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Chandpur unit, yesterday distributed relief materials among the distressed families in different areas of Matlab thana under Chandpur district, a press release said, reports BSS.

About 1,000 distressed families in Mohanpur, Eklaspur, Kalakanda and Bagbari areas under the thana received relief goods, it said. Each family has been given 10 kgs of rice and two kgs of pulse, it added.

State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Dr MA Gafur and Masud Bhuiyan were, among others, present on the occasion.

Milad mahfil for Hanif's recovery

A milad mahfil, see ing early recovery of City Awami League President Mayor Mohammad Hanif, will be held at the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue at 5 pm today, reports BSS.

The milad will be followed by a condolence meeting in memory of Mohammad Abed Hossain, Vice-President of Kotwali thana and city Awami League leader, at the same venue.

Central and city leaders of the Awami League will attend both the functions, a party press release said today.



The silver jubilee celebration of Vantage Group was held in the city yesterday. M I Karim (M), Chairman, flanked by M Zaman (R), Director and Begum Jahanara Kamal (L), also a Director, seen among the prize-winners in their respective fields.

— Star photo

Iranian liberals call for lift of ban on newspaper

TEHRAN, Sept 18: More than 100 Iranians, most of them liberal opposition members, called Saturday on the conservative judiciary to lift the ban imposed on a leading pro-reform daily two weeks ago, reports AFP.

They called in a petition for the judiciary to "preserve its independence," and accused the regime's conservatives of "closing several other (pro-reform) papers ahead of crucial parliamentary elections" February 18, 2000.

They want to close down several other papers which more or less reflect the public's opinion ahead of next year's elections, the signatories said, most of whom are members of Iran's influential Freedom Movement, a tolerated liberal opposition group.

They also demanded reform of the judiciary and called on it to take "disciplinary measures" against the head of Tehran's press court, Saeed Mortazavi, who ordered the closure of the popular moderate Neshat newspaper about two weeks ago.

"A certain political faction has systematically opposed all forms of reforms initiated by President Mohammad Khatami since his election" in May 1997.

Ferry service, river vessels at risks in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Sept 18: Ferry service and river vessels loaded with goods and commodities have been plying with risks as shoals are coming up at places with recession of water in Jamuna river, reports UNB.

The cargo vassals from Narayanganj and Chittagong-bound for northern districts are moving slowly in the absence of navigation signal that used to be put up by the authorities.

Officials said some 22 big or small ferries operate to ferry vehicles and passengers on Arsha-Daulatdia-Nagarbari routes. With the recession of water some five pontoons at the ghats were rendered inoperative. As a result, loading and unloading of vehicles are hampered.

Meanwhile, the navigation channels have silted up due to accumulation of sands in the riverbed with the recession of water.

BIWTC Deputy General Manager Shahabuddin Mirza said dredging should start right now to keep the channels navigable.

Stranded Iranian to leave airport after 11 years!

PARIS, Sept 18: An Iranian with no travel documents who has lived for the past 11 years at the Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport just outside Paris has finally received papers allowing him to enter Europe, and is planning to travel to Belgium on Sunday, reports AFP.

Mehran Karimi Nasser, known to all as "Alfred," received French papers on Thursday which will allow him to live in France, and in July Belgium granted him political refugee status.

"Alfred," 54, told AFP he would travel to Belgium with a team of Finnish cameramen. "I don't really know what I'll end up doing, but what is certain is that I'm now free now to come and go as I please," he said. "It's possible I'll come back to France."

"Alfred" settled at the French airport in November 1988 after flying from Iran to London, Berlin and Amsterdam in an effort to locate his mother.

At Roissy-Charles de Gaulle, "an informal network of supporters grew up around him," said Philippe Bargain, the head of the airport's medical services.

"Some people gave him books, and I bought him a radio so he could follow the news."

"Alfred" also used the medical service to take showers, he added.

Aircraft with 317 on board goes off runway in Dublin

DUBLIN, Sept 18: A government investigation was underway in Ireland after an aircraft landing at Shannon airport in the south west of the island over-shot the runway on Saturday, a spokesman for Aer Lingus said, reports AFP.

None of the 317 passengers and crew of the plane coming from New York was injured when the incident happened at 6:22 am (0522 GMT).

The undercarriage of the McDonnell Douglas 11 aircraft, operating for Ireland's Aer Lingus national airline is believed to have sustained some damage in the incident.

"The plane made a normal landing but then rolled off the end of the runway by about 40 feet. The conditions were difficult with heavy rain and wind but they were within the limits of the safety parameters," the Aer Lingus spokesman said.

The passengers were taken off the plane using steps and then by bus to the terminal.

"There was no panic as it was only at the last moment anyone realised anything was wrong when the aircraft partially rolled off the end of the runway after it had virtually come to a stop."

The airport was closed following the incident and flights were diverted to Dublin, including a second Aer Lingus transatlantic flight from New York's JFK airport and one from Boston.

the group said.

Neshat director Latif Safari will stand trial Monday at Tehran's press court.

The paper was closed for publishing two "anti-Islamic" articles, one calling for an end to the death penalty and Iran's strict "eye-for-an-eye" law of retribution, and the other for questioning the authority of supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, which is illegal under Iranian law.

Khamenei then decreed that journalists who opposed the retribution law were "apostates" who were liable to be put to death.

The liberals' petition echoes the stance of the paper's editors, who said the ban was a "political coup" to muzzle the pro-reform press ahead of next spring's parliamentary elections.

Although the editors made good their vow to defy the closure by bringing a new daily, Akhbar-e-Eqtasad, to the news stands, they made clear that it was not a replacement for the popular Neshat.

Since coming to office, Khatami has put the easing of press restrictions near the top of his reform agenda, leading to a new openness in discussions of the nation's political affairs.

But the conservative-dominated courts have fought back, banning newspapers and arresting or interrogating dozens of journalists.

Sena Kalyan Commercial Complex opens

A newly built commercial complex of the Sena Kalyan Sangstha (SKS) and an exhibition of SKS products were inaugurated at Tongi yesterday afternoon, says a press release.

Chief of Army Staff and President of the Board of Trustees of the Sangstha Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram unveiled the plaque of the commercial complex and declared the exhibition open. He distributed cheques for scholarships and medical grants of the sangstha to the retired army officers, personnel and their children. He also handed over wheel-chairs donated by the SKS to them.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief of Army Staff said that, the commercial complex at Tongi, the gate way to the capital city, would play a vital role in marketing different products produced by different enterprises of the Sangstha and thereby help increase accumulation of fund by the sangstha to finance its welfare activities.

General Mustafiz expressed his satisfaction to note that the SKS has spent more than 30 crore taka for educational and vocational scholarships and medical grants during the last 28 years. The commercial complex would meet the need of a large number of consumers by displaying and marketing dependable and worthy products of the Sangstha, he hoped.

The Managing Director of the SKS Brigadier Mohammad Shahjalal also spoke on the occasion. He gave a resume on the products of its different units as well as welfare projects under taken by the Sangstha.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral A Taher, Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Janab Ahsanullah Masud MP, Tongi Pourashava Chairman Advogate Ajmatullah Khan, senior military officials including PSOs and officials of the sangstha.

Maid hospitalised in bad condition

A maid mercilessly beaten by her master was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a bad condition yesterday, reports UNB.

Malika, 30, said her master Reaz, a resident of Iskaton Road, accused her of involving in the missing of the younger maid, Khuku, from the house three days ago and beat her mercilessly.

Hailing from Mithapukur, Rangpur, Malika said she has been working as maid in the house of Reaz since September 5.

Three-wheelers

From page 1

the roads of the capital of the Himalayan kingdom.

But as they provide a popular and cheap form of transport around the city and its surroundings, the government could face a tough battle in trying to maintain the ban.

Environment experts claim pollution levels have soared as high as those in the world's most polluted cities.

There are some 640 registered three-wheelers which run on diesel in the kingdom, while there are only 225 battery-operated ones and 128 running on liquefied petroleum gas.

Out of the total 235,236 vehicles registered across the kingdom, 75 per cent operate in the Kathmandu valley, causing high levels of toxic fumes.

Doctors say numbers of people visiting hospitals with diseases of the nose, eye, throat or lungs are on the rise.

But authorities are gearing up for a struggle to rid the city of its diesel three-wheelers.

"We will seek the help of the police to remove the smoke-emitting three-wheelers from the valley," said Sheranji Karki, officer with the Ministry of Environment (MOPE).

Police said they were ready and willing to help.

