

What's on today . . .

Launching ceremony: The inaugural session of the Project Launch Workshop of Third Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Project (RRMP-III) will be held. Chief guest: Anwar Hossain Manju, Minister for Communications. Venue: Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 8.45 am.

Inauguration of Child Rights Week '99: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs will hold the inaugural function of the Child Rights Week '99. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Venue: Osmani Memorial auditorium. Time: 9.30 am.

Seminar: A seminar on "Integrated Mosquito Management in Dhaka City: Promising Non-chemical Components" will be held. Organiser: CESTI of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka and Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS). Venue: Cafeteria of Alliance Francaise. Time: 10.30 am.

Film show: Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Pare* will be screened. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 3.00 pm, 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm.

Discussion meeting: Shishu Academy will hold a discussion meeting on "Media and Child Rights" in observance of the beginning of Child Rights Week. The meeting will be followed by a cultural show. Venue: Shishu Academy premises. Time: 4.30 pm.

Discussion: Samajtantrik Buddhijibi Sangha (Union of Socialist Intellectuals) will hold a discussion. Venue: TSC seminar room. Time: 5.00 pm.

Film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society in collaboration with Goethe Institut will screen 2 movies *Funny Games* by Michael Hareke and *Eyes Wide Shut* by Stanley Kubrick. Venue: Goethe institut. Time: 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm.

Art competition: Bangladesh Shishu Academy will hold an art competition for children as part of its weeklong programmes on Child Rights Week '99. A discussion meeting on "Repression on children: inside home and outside" will also be held. Venue: Shishu Academy premises. Time: 2.00 pm and 4.30 pm respectively.

and tomorrow

BIDS Roundtable: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies will hold a roundtable discussion on transshipment. Venue: BIDS conference room. Time: 10.00 am.

Seminar: Centre for Development Communication will begin a three-day seminar on "Communication, New Technology and Development". Venue: CIRAP auditorium, Chameli House, Tophkana Road. Time: 5.30 pm.

Film show: Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Pare* will be screened. Venue: Public Library Auditorium. Time: 3.00 pm, 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm.

Installation ceremony: The 14th installation ceremony of the Executive Committee of the Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 6.30 pm.

Weather

Temp likely to rise

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Barisal, Khulna, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain mainly dry over Rajshahi division till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country during the period.

Country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 34.5 degree Celsius at Khulna and the lowest 23.3 degrees at Satkhira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.48 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.50 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	32.5	25.5	80	83
Chittagong	32.5	26.0	78	78
Rajshahi	32.8	25.3	80	76
Khulna	34.5	26.0	79	73
Barisal	33.4	24.5	73	73
Sylhet	31.5	25.0	92	86
Cox's Bazar	33.7	25.2	73	78

HERE and THERE

CEDAW Forum

The 20th anniversary of CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women of the United Nation) Forum, a coalition of 40 women's organisations and NGOs in Bangladesh working for implementation of CEDAW in Bangladesh, was observed recently.

On the occasion, a discussion on the implementation status and strategies to overcome the obstacles was held at the WVA auditorium in the city.

Women activists, human right workers, academicians and NGO leaders participated in the discussion. They emphasised on the withdrawal of reservation of CEDAW, need for increase in number of women's seats in the parliament and election of women candidates through direct votes.

The meeting was presided by Salma Khan CEDAW chairperson and president of CEDAW forum. Among others who took part in the discussion were Dr Hamida Hossain, Salma Khan, Farida Akter, Sigma Huda, Ayesha Khanam, Prof Najma Siddiqi, Jahannara Haq, Rasheda K Chowdhury and Zeenat Ara Bhuiyan.

Nazma Jesmin Memorial lecture

By DU Correspondent

The 10th Nazma Jesmin Memorial lecture on "Science, Society and Transformation of Civilization" was held at the Institute of Modern Language auditorium of Dhaka University yesterday.

Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam, director of Centre for Theoretical Mathematics and Physics of Chittagong University, delivered key-note speech on the topic while Prof. Muhammad Jahangir presided.

GCO

By DU Correspondent
Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a conglomerate of some left-leaning student organisations, yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus demanding disclosure of the names and political identity of enlisted 60 terrorists of the university campus.

Following the procession, GCO held a rally on the campus at noon, which was addressed, among others, by Sajedul Haq Romel of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Badal of Bangladesh Chhatra Union.

IFNGO

The 25th meeting of the management board of International Federation of Non Government Organisations for Prevention of drug and substance abuse (IFNGO) was held in Jakarta recently, says a press release.

New Super Market Merchant Assoc

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka New Super Market (South) Merchant Association yesterday demanded arrest and trial of the bus driver who is allegedly responsible for a road mishap at New Market area on September 18.

Mohammed Sohel, 28, a young trader of the market received serious injuries when a bus hit him near the overbridge.

The general secretary of the merchant association said that even nine days after the accident police are yet to arrest the driver.

Naree Progati

By DU Correspondent
Naree Progati (NP) yesterday condemned the alleged incident of sexual harassment on a second year female student by her teacher of Psychology Department of the Dhaka University recently.

PM's birthday celebrated

With bouquets and petals children thronged Ganobhaban yesterday to greet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her 53rd birthday, reports UNB.

Also came her party leaders and workers to wish Sheikh Hasina many happy returns of the day in her life.

Hasina, the eldest daughter of Bangladesh's founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was born in remote village of Tungpara on this day in 1947.

There were no official celebrations on the PM's birthday, but a large number of children with flowers came to the Prime Minister's official residence to greet her on the occasion.

The Prime Minister, despite suffering from influenza, passed some time with the children and exchanged pleasantries with them.

A group of senior leaders, including party general secretary and LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman, came to Ganobhaban to convey their greetings to the PM. They prayed for her long life and good health.

They also congratulated the Prime Minister on her winning the UNESCO peace prize, which she received on September 24 in Paris.

Dhaka City Awami League organised a milad mahfil at party office on the occasion while Bangladesh Chhatra League organised milad at Dhaka University Central Mosque.

Chhatra League, the student wing of the ruling party, also organised a discussion meeting "World Peace and People's Leader Sheikh Hasina" at TSC Sarakdeep to mark the occasion.

JU students

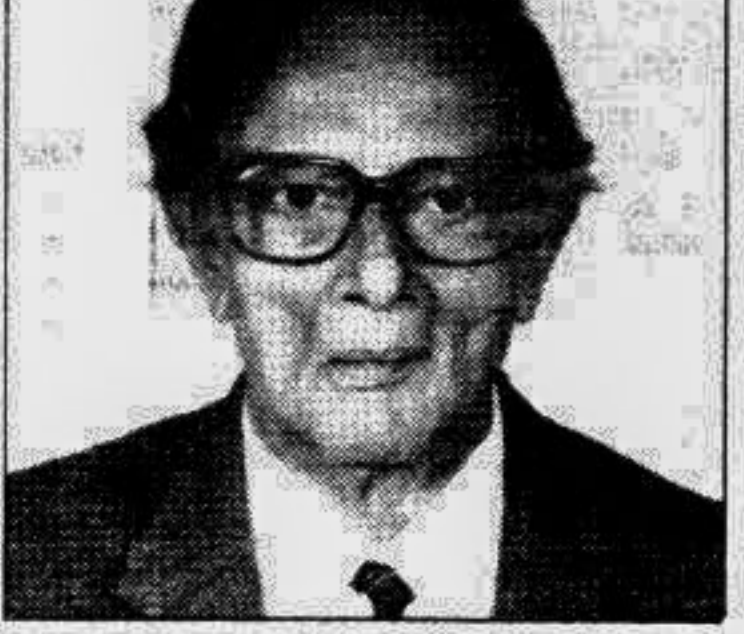
From page 1
darity with the movement of APHRC and urged the university authorities to withdraw enhanced admission fee.

Addressing the rally, Dr Kamal Hossain criticised the decision to enhance admission fee, saying that it is responsibility of the state to bear the educational expenses of its citizens.

Education is the basic constitutional right, he said, adding that increase of admission fee in now a national issue.

Three hunger striking students — Bijon, Habib and Arun — became sick today. The first two were admitted to Ganaswasthya Hospital.

Admission Fee-hike Resistance Committee will gherao the JU Syndicate meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 3 pm.



Obituary

Mohammed Ali Khan, retired District and Sessions Judge died at a local clinic on September 26 at 3:00 pm. He was 78, says a press release.

Khan was suffering from liver complications. Born in a respectable Muslim family in Netrakona district. Khan served as the Registrar of Dhaka High Court and President of the Appellate Tribunal.

He left behind his wife, son and many relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at family graveyard at Atpara upazilla.



Mostafa Abdul Hai Al-Azad, former secretary of Bangladesh Cha Sangsad, died on Monday. He was 73, says a press release.

In his long career of service since 1967, he achieved the position of Deputy Chief, Planning Commission.

During his long service to the Bangladesh Cha Sangsad since 1980, his contribution helped the tea industry achieve wide success in world exports and international recognition.

Mostafa Abdul Hai left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter.

His *qukhuan* will be held at his residence at 103, Korobi Apartments, House 3, Road 7, Gulshan 1 on Friday after Asr prayers.

Freedom fighter Taher Ahmed Taru, joint convener of Dhaka City Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, died of cardiac failure early yesterday. He was 48, reports UNB.

He left behind his wife, two daughters, one son, mother, five brothers, two sisters, a host of relatives and Nirmul Committee comrades to mourn his demise.

Taru, also a leader of various socio-cultural organisations in Old Dhaka, became paralysed after he suffered an internal brain haemorrhage 10 months ago.

Speaker seeks global help to mitigate arsenic contamination

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury yesterday sought help and assistance of the world community to ensure safe drinking water in the country, mitigating arsenic contamination in the ground water level, reports BSS.

"Bangladesh alone cannot tackle the problem. So we invite the whole world to come forward to help cope with the chemical contamination," he said at an arsenic remediation technology demonstration ceremony.

Dr Hal Link Limited, the local representative of the USA-based Stevens Institute of Technology, organised the demonstration ceremony at Sonargaon Hotel.

State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, State Minister for Health Prof Dr Amanullah, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Saber Hossain Chowdhury attended the function as special guests.

President of Stevens Institute Dr Hal Reveche also spoke on the occasion while Nasrine R Karim, Managing Director of Dia Link Limited gave the vote of thanks.

The technology, developed by the Stevens Family of New Jersey, is designed to remove heavy metals like arsenic, selenium, chromium, cadmium and lead from micro level of water. It will cost Taka 100 annually for a family to make water free from chemical contamination, by using this method.

According to a report, a single plant of the technology is able to purify 15 litres of water each time using only an iron coagulate (Ferric-Chloride) tablet which will dissolve into a bucket of water and will bind arsenic molecules present there.

The Speaker said, out of the 64 districts of the country, 59 have so far been affected with the problem. He appreciated the Stevens' programme in Bangladesh and hoped this noble response of the institute would certainly help government initiatives towards arsenic mitigation. He also appreciated the NGOs role to cope with the problem.

Dr Alamgir said considering the economic condition of the rural people, the worst victims of the arsenic contamination, any technology in this regard should be cost-effective and simple to have a greater acceptance among the users.

Prof Amanullah said the government is relentlessly working towards ensuring people's access to food and safe drinking water.

Saber Chowdhury underscored the need for a coordinated and concerted effort to tackle the problem initially and a long term planning to cope with this concern of the common people. Referring to some wrong motivational programmes, in the past he said indiscriminate extraction of ground water through mushrooming tubewells now pose a serious threat to the people's health.

Dr Hal described Stevens Institute as a service-oriented for mankind and said this institute has done a lot for people by innovating various technologies from transportation to landmine removals. In Bangladesh, he said, we have come to join hands together to solve the arsenic problem. We are here neither to discuss studies or research for a business deal — we want to share with Bangladeshis our practical, easy and affordable solution.

Nasrine Karim welcomed the Stevens programme in Bangladesh and said this easy and inexpensive technology would certainly be popular within a short time.

Later, Dr Korfiatis and Dr X Meng, inventors of arsenic remediation technology, demonstrated their new technique.



Bangladesh Chhatra League brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to celebrate the 53rd birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. — Star photo



Students shouting anti-government slogans at a rally at Paltan Maidan yesterday. The rally was organised by JCD to protest the repression of the opposition activists. — Star photo

HC halts

From page 1
stated.

Refuting the contention of the petitioner, Acting Attorney General Mahbubey Alam submitted that the Treaty and the Agreement have already been signed and executed. Ten per cent of the payment was made on June 29 and 20 per cent on September 21. So the writ petition has become infructuous, he argued.

Moreover, the question and issues raised in the petition were not raised by the petitioner either before the Parliamentary Standing Committee or the Parliament, the Acting Attorney General said. The petitioner filed the petition with the Vacation Bench of the court with a mala fide intention only to harass the government and to delay the delivery of the aircraft, he submitted.

The President has already approved the Treaty, he stated and submitted before the court a copy of the Treaty bearing the signature of the President.

After hearing counsels of both the sides, the court observed that the matter was of great public importance and it should be heard after issuing rule.

DU students demand ban on Jamaat politics

By DU Correspondent

All Party Students' Organisation at Rokeya Hall and general students of the Dhaka University yesterday demanded ban on the politics of Jamaat-Islami and its different wings whom they termed as, radical and anti-liberation forces.

They also demanded that university authorities expel all the accused activists of Jamaat backed-Islami Chhatra Shibir and Islami Chhatra Sangstha from different residential halls of the university and punish those accused.

The demands were made in a press conference held at Madhus's canteen on the campus at noon.

Reading out the statement at the conference, Rukhsana Parvin Ruma said, "we cannot allow the anti-state politics of religious fanatics continue in the country, let alone at the university, the hotbed of our Liberation War."

"As part of the anti-Shibir move on the campus, we have

searched ten rooms at the hall on Friday night and found objectionable papers and documents, photographs, membership forms, posters, publications of Jamaat-Shibir and books written by war criminals including Golam Azam," the statement said.

"We have no motive to show disregard to the Holy Quran and Islam and we have not displayed any such gestures. We were careful during the search since practice of all religions is one of our fundamental rights," they stated following 'provocative reports' published in some newspapers about the incident.

Responding to journalists at the press conference, they said, "We cannot live and study with religious extremists who are led by such war criminals as Golam Azam."

"This is the beginning of our anti-Jamaat Shibir movement and we will spread it throughout the country," they said.

Save the Buriganga

From page 1
Environment Secretary Syed Marubur Murshed told The Daily Star that the problem of the Buriganga dated back to 45 years "so the solution would also take some time to come by".

The Secretary envisaged two projects involving unspecified sums of money. He said a pilot project with financial aid from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) would be launched soon "to carry out a professional study" on the river Buriganga.

A 25-year mega-project will also be launched with the financial aid of ESCAP, UNEP and ADB through which studies would be conducted on several rivers including the Buriganga, the Shitalakha, the Bhairab, the Brahmaputra near Mymensingh and the Rupsha. The focus of the studies would be on the rivers' sanitation and conservation, the secretary said.

"Five ministries are involved in the 'Save Buriganga' drive and we would like to act on field assessment," he said. When asked what immediate measures were being taken, Murshed said that no new industries, other than those listed in the green category would be allowed to grow along the river.

Meanwhile, Deputy Secretary of Environment officials are currently preparing a report with recommended remedial measures to be presented at the next committee meeting. The DOE report will be a summary based on numerous other surveys on the Buriganga since 1992.

Among other agencies involved in working with the Buriganga related problems, Water Development Board (WDB) has gone one step forward with a project proposal to construct a Tk 19 crore embankment with a 'rebated slope'. The money has been promised by the Asian Development Bank.

But the project covers a four-kilometre area — from the Friendship Bridge up to Kamrangirchar — on the less problematic southern side of the river. "The embankment would be a deterrent to encroachment," claimed a WDB engineer. He also said that the dockyards and several other spots would remain "as they are now".

"The embankment would not be built along these spots because we need a government policy to do so," the engineer said hinting at the influence of the well-to-do settlers. The dockyards on the opposite side of Sadarghat have been a major polluting source.

The official however admitted that the worst scenario of encroachment existed on the northern side of the river. When asked why they did not take any work on the side that needed immediate protection, the official said that it was the responsibility of the BIWTA.

The northern part of the river Buriganga which is split by a channel at Kamrangirchar has died off due to encroachment. A small channel is apparent only in flood season. Although WDB has just finished constructing the embankment between Swarighat and Lalbari, the department has no plan to build any embankment around the 'island' of Kamrangirchar. The river is rapidly being encroached from the Kamrangirchar end.

About saving the Buckland Bandh and other encroached areas nearby, BIWTA and WDB officials put the responsibility on each other.

But a WDB official again pointed at the influential hands. "Here we are talking about a government policy to protect the river. Ask those encroachers. They would show you a clearance from the Deputy Commissioner's office to do business on that spot," the WDB official said.

Rajuk chairman M Azizul Haque said he believed the best way to save the river Buriganga was to build an embankment-cum-road around its banks. "We have already formed a committee consisting of an engineer and an architect. The committee is presently conducting a survey to build the road," the chairman told The Daily Star.

When pointed out that the project looked too ambitious, the chairman said "it was the ultimate protection for the river". He however admitted that "a lot of money was required to build such a road".

BIWTA chairman said they had plans to partially dredge the river for navigational purpose. "We do not own the river, it's the Deputy Commissioner's office that does," he said.

Although a member of the Save Buriganga committee headed by the Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka, IWTA was the only agency that remained absent in its first meeting held on June 20. The chairman, being posted to his current position recently, was not aware of any such meeting, he said.

Dhaka Deputy Commissioner M A Mubarek also put emphasis on a government policy to clear the river Buriganga. "If we want to make the river free from pollution and encroachment we need to be very firm,"

Shantu Larma meets DU VC

Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council Chairman Jyotindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma yesterday called on Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury during a visit to his alma mater, a press release of the university said, reports BSS.

During the visit, the former tribal rebel leader, recalled his student days in mid sixties on the campus and said he gained his political consciousness and values during his days in Dhaka University.

Shantu Larma obtained masters degree in Bangla from the university in 1966.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Mohammad Shahadat Ali, Dean of the Faculty of Arts Prof Kazi Shahidullah, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Dr Rafiqullah Khan of Bangla Department and Prof Nim Chandra Bhaumik of Applied Physics were present during the visit.

The vice chancellor presented crest of the university to Shantu Larma.

SAF games

From page 1
Karateka Shorb Khan earned the bronze in the men's under-55 category while Doly Akhter in the women's 100m breaststroke. In the women's air rifle team shooting, the trio of Kazi Shana Parveen, Afia Khatun and Sabrina Sultana finished third.

With Bangladesh continuing their poor show, India, hosts Nepal and Sri Lanka kept increasing the gold haul in the seven-nation meet.

Runaway leaders India added 14 more golds today to their previous collections of 23 golds. With 5 more golds today, Nepal took its tally to 14. All of their golds however came from the different categories of karate.

Thanks to yet another sizzling sprint by Damayanti Darsha, Sri Lanka could bag their only gold today, which raised their gold tally to 9.

Darsha completed a terrific treble in the regional meet winning the 200m event in a record 22.68 seconds. The Lankan sprint queen earlier clinched gold in 100m and 400m, also setting new Games record.

With 5 golds Pakistan have remained fourth in the standings while Bhutan and Maldives are yet to get a medal.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh kabaddi team, who lost their first match to India on Monday, won their first match in the six-team kabaddi competition this morning, defeating hosts Nepal by 25-11 points.

Heavy rain washed out their third league match against Sri Lanka, which was scheduled to be held in the afternoon.

The men's table tennis team, comprising Kochi, Rochi and Mostafa, also won their first match, beating Maldives 3-0.

MEDALS TABLE (DAY THREE)

Country	G	S	B	Total
India	37	34	14	85
Nepal	14	2	5	21
Sri Lanka	9	17	30	56
Pakistan	5	9	17	31
Bangladesh	0	3	10	13

ted that the worst scenario of encroachment existed on the northern side of the river. When asked why they did not take any work on the side that needed immediate protection, the official said that it was the responsibility of the BIWTA.

The northern part of the river Buriganga which is split by a channel at Kamrangirchar has died off due to encroachment. A small channel is apparent only in flood season. Although WDB has just finished constructing the embankment between Swarighat and Lalbari, the department has no plan to build any embankment around the 'island' of Kamrangirchar. The river is rapidly being encroached from the Kamrangirchar end.

About saving the Buckland Bandh and other encroached areas nearby, BIWTA and WDB officials put the responsibility on each other.

But a WDB official again pointed at the influential hands. "Here we are talking about a government policy to protect the river. Ask those encroachers. They would show you a clearance from the Deputy Commissioner's office to do business on that spot," the WDB official said.

Rajuk chairman M Azizul Haque said he believed the best way to save the river Buriganga was to build an embankment-cum-road around its banks. "We have already formed a committee consisting of an engineer and an architect. The committee is presently conducting a survey to build the road," the chairman told The Daily Star.

When pointed out that the project looked too ambitious, the chairman said "it was the ultimate protection for the river". He however admitted that "a lot of money was required to build such a road".

BIWTA chairman said they had plans to partially dredge the river for navigational purpose. "We do not own the river, it's the Deputy Commissioner's office that does," he said.

Although a member of the Save Buriganga committee headed by the Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka, IWTA was the only agency that remained absent in its first meeting held on June 20. The chairman, being posted to his current position recently, was not aware of any such meeting, he said.

Dhaka Deputy Commissioner M A Mubarek also put emphasis on a government policy to clear the river Buriganga. "If we want to make the river free from pollution and encroachment we need to be very firm,"

Four sex workers — Nargis, Hena, Runa and Hazera — evicted a couple of months ago from Tanbazar and Nimitali, were in the delegation.

Termining poverty as the main problem afflicting the country, the BNP chairperson said innocent girls were compelled to take this profession due to rising poverty.

She said BNP is in movement for ensuring human rights and removing poverty from the country.

She suggested the sex workers for launching movement for their proper rehabilitation in the society