

## What's on today.....

**Clinical meet:** Z H Sikder Cardiac Care and Research Centre has organised a clinical meeting on ACERA (Acute Reception Antagonist). Keynote speaker: Dr Shamimul Haque, Assistant Professor of Cardiology, Venue: Conference Hall of the centre at Monica Estate, West Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

**Launching programme:** The launching programme of 'Management Development for Thana Managers' will be held. Chief guest: Salah Uddin Yusuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel Ballroom. Time: 9:30 am.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Nat'l Craft Show '99:** The inaugural ceremony of the National Craft Show '99 will be held. Organisers: Export Promotion Bureau and Bangladesh Handicrafts. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 11 am.

**Training course:** The inaugural ceremony of the Regional Training course on 'Food and Nutrition Programme Planning and Management' will be held. Organisers: BIRTAN, MOA & RFP-FNP, UPLB. Chief guest: Begum Matia Chowdhury, Minister for Agriculture and Food. Venue: BARC auditorium, Farmgate. Time: 9:30 am.

## Weather

### Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, according to the Met Office.

Day temperature may rise by one to three degree Celsius across the country while rainfall activities may increase in the subsequent two days, it forecast.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Madaripur and the lowest 22.2 degree Celsius at Satkhira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.32 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.57 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	33.1	23.2	72	81
Chittagong	35.0	25.3	78	81
Rajshahi	31.8	23.2	86	90
Khulna	32.8	24.4	83	76
Barisal	33.3	23.4	75	83
Sylhet	34.0	24.9	89	80
Cox's Bazar	35.0	26.0	85	82

## HERE and THERE

### Dhaka College Ex-Students' Assoc ('84 Batch)

A meeting of the Dhaka College Ex-Students' Association ('84 Batch) was held in the city recently, says a press release.

The meeting was presided over by its convener Anisul Hoque Litu.

The meeting decided to hold a reunion programme of the ex-students of the 1984 batch of Dhaka College on November 26.

The registration fee has been fixed Tk 300/- per person and Tk 500/- for couples.

Interested ex-students of the batch have been requested to contact with Anisul Hoque. Phone No: 9561062-64 (off), Jalal Ahmed Swapan: 9559561-1.

3 (off), 9660782 (Res), Mesbahuddin Khan: 9351853 (off) and Mamun: 9346862 (Off) 018-220442 (Mobile) by November 10 for registration and further details.

### Udichi Shilpi Goshthi

By Staff Correspondent

The two-day 4th conference of the Dhaka city unit of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi concluded in the city on Thursday with a call to unite all against killing, terrorism, rape, repression and social erosion.

On the concluding day, a 41-member committee was also formed with Dr Golam Mohiuddin as president and Habibul Alam as general secretary.

## Accidents claim 4 in Comilla, B'baria

COMILLA, Oct 15: Four people including a woman and child were killed and 25 others injured today and yesterday in three separate road accidents on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway and main road of the Brahmanbaria town, reports BSS.

Police and hospital sources said one Uttam Kumar Roy died on the spot when a Dhaka bound bus of Soudia Paribahan collided head-on with a newspaper carrying bus near Chhoighoria under Chandina thana of the district early this morning. Fifteen passengers were injured in the accident.

In the second accident an unidentified man was killed on the spot when a Parshuram bound passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch at Ishan Nagar under Choudhagram thana around 12 noon. The accident left 10 others injured.

All the injured persons were admitted to different local hospitals and clinics in Comilla.

In another accident one Chamey, 45, and her grand son Propid, 8, were killed on the main road of the Brahmanbaria district town yesterday.

The accident occurred when a tractor hit their rickshaw from behind at around 9:30 pm.

According to police and eyewitness, the killer tractor was coming in high speed from the south side of the town and hit the rickshaw from behind. As a result, Propid, 8, was

crushed under the wheels while his grandmother, Chamey, was injured seriously. On way to hospital she died.

Angry mob set the killer tractor on fire. Firefighters rushed to the spot and tried to control the fire, but angry people chased them away.

Later, police of Brahmanbaria Sadar thana rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

The autopsies of the bodies were conducted at the Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

A case was filed with Brahmanbaria Sadar Police Station in this regard.

### Bailey bridge at Jatrabari-Saidabad crossing opens

A 120-foot Bailey bridge constructed by a contingent of Army engineers at the Jatrabari-Saidabad section of Dhaka-Chittagong highway was opened to light traffic yesterday, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Army undertook the construction of the bridge on request from the Dhaka City Corporation.

About 100 engineers of Army completed the work on the bridge within three days. The Army gave equipment and construction materials while the Dhaka City Corporation provided wooden piles.



A procession marking the World White Cane Safety Day in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## Bangladesh's election to UNSC rare int'l recognition: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the unanimous election of Bangladesh to the UN Security Council a rare recognition by the international community, reports BSS.

"It's a recognition towards our efforts for establishing peace and ending confrontations from anywhere in the globe," she said while giving her reaction to Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar on the country's entry to the Security Council.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh is totally committed to and respectful of peace and would continue its efforts to make a confrontation-free world in the coming millennium and with this principle Bangladesh would play its due role in the Security Council.

The prime minister said

Bangladesh has been elected to the important UN post by bagging 172 votes out of 172 members present. "This is a demonstration of the recognition and confidence of the world leadership towards us," she said.

The prime minister recalled that Bangladesh was liberated under the leadership of our great leader Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and also received UN recognition under his dynamic statesmanship. "Today we are very happy that we have been elected to the Security Council at a moment when we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Bangladesh entry to the United Nations," she added.

The prime minister said in the Charter of the United Nations as well as in the country's sacred Constitution the

national independence and sovereignty of all countries are guaranteed. "We will do our performances in the Security Council keeping this principle above all," she added.

While speaking on Bangladesh's initiative for world peace, the prime minister said we are making valuable contribution to the UN peace-keeping process. "Our soldiers, despite constraints and confronting situations in many trouble-torn areas, have been making remarkable contributions to UN peace-keeping mission," she said.

As a member of the Security Council we want to face the challenges of the coming century by strictly adhering to the policy of peace and working for establishing a conflict-free peaceful abode on the earth. The Prime Minister expressed her hope.

## Syed Jahangir's 31st solo opens at DD Gallery

By Ziaul Karim



A student of the North South University (NSU) performing a dance on the occasion of the annual cultural programme at Osmany Memorial Hall in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

### DU Mourning Day observed

By DU Correspondent

The 'Morning Day' of the Dhaka University was observed on the campus yesterday with due respect.

This day is being observed at the university every year in remembrance of the 39 students, officials and employees of Jagannath Hall who died in a tragic accident on the day in 1985 as the rain-soaked roof of the hall's TV room collapsed during a popular drama serial on BTV.

### Bomb blast

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well orchestrated mechanism by a particular quarter to create anarchy across different universities and an attempt to destabilise the government.

He told The Daily Star last night that an empty engine oil container was found outside the building which suggested that "somebody might have sprinkled petrol and set afire with an ulterior motive". Asked about the claim that a "powerful bomb" had exploded inside the proctor's office after being hurled from outside. The VC said "In darkness neither he nor the proctor could not guess what exactly had caused the cracks on the wall. After all we are not bomb experts. There had been a loud bang as reported to us by the guards."



Spouses of the members of the Jatiya Press Club in a 'tug of war' competition marking the founding anniversary of the club yesterday.

— Star photo

## White Cane Safety Day observed

The World White Cane Safety Day was observed yesterday in the city and other parts of the country in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

As part of the day's programmes, State Minister for Social Welfare Dr. Mozammel Hossain led a procession in the city participated by different forums of related people.

The procession which started from the Jatiya Shishu Park, paraded different streets with colourful placards and banners before ending in the Eskaton area.

Later, speaking at a function Dr Mozammel Hossain urged the social and voluntary organisations to supplement the government efforts for the benefit of the blind and the people with other disabilities.

He said the present government has established a national foundation for the welfare of the country's 1.20 crore people who were somehow suffering from any sort of disabilities and initially sanctioned Taka 15 crore for its functioning.

### ABC

Assistance for Blind Children (ABC) jointly with Rotaract Club on Mohanagar North West RI Dist. 3280 observed the White Cane Safety Day, says a press release.

## New graveyard

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"Work on the project will be started as soon as possible. We have started paper work, but it is still at a preliminary stage. Relevant papers will be sent to the committee on land allocation at the DC's office," Fattah said.

Asked whether he was aware of an order from the Prime Minister and preparation of a draft bill to protect low-lying lands, open spaces and parks in the city, Fattah admitted that the proposed project would contradict the order and provisions in the draft bill.

About two years ago, DCC's engineering department had taken up a Tk 3 crore project to fill up the Harkar Khal and build a truck terminal within 100 feet of the martyred intellectuals' monument which is now nearing completion. Earthwork for filling up the canal was stopped by the authorities after a report appeared in The Daily Star.

## Prof Yunus

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"If we want to increase the number of internet to one million by 2003, we need to increase the number of telephone to two millions. We should increase the number of telephone subscribers to five millions by 2010."

E-Commerce has become very popular in the Western countries. "What has become attractive for us now is E-Service (Electronic Service). We can sell our products and services to Western countries through it," he said.

He identified the administrative system which is now on the brink of collapse and the present confrontational politics as the main hindrances to achieving the target.

Prof Yunus urged both the leaders - the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition - to commit that they would free the country from terrorism and extend support to each other in this regard.

The nation could only appeal to them by saying 'save us'. Presided over by Prof K M Mohsin, Chairperson of Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Trust Fund, the function was addressed by Prof Mahfuza Khanam, Convenor of trust fund.

## Gas

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Tell's estimate of three dollars per unit earning from gas export excluded transmission cost.

But he added that real cost of the export would depend on various contracts among the governments concerned, the pipeline operator and other authorities involved.

He admitted that the profit margin would also depend on who was the gas exporting authority - Petrobranga or the IOC's themselves.

"Yes, of course there are many issues which should be addressed first before we can draw the real picture," the Shell official added.

A Unocal official said that the proposed Unocal pipeline under the Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP), which was designed to take huge quantities of gas up to the bordering district of Kushtia, sought a supply-based tariff. Tariff would be very low when higher volume of gas would be transmitted through this pipeline, he explained.

"For the initial gas supply, tariff would be as high as 90 cents per unit. But when you are transmitting large volume of gas, tariff can come down to as low as 10 cents per unit."

The official further said, "So when you are talking about export, you are talking about large volume of gas transmission. In this way, for the sake of argument, I can say that the transmission cost through WRIP pipeline may be as low as 10 cents. Transmission through other pipelines might cost the same way, he added.

"What we are trying to do is to show that Bangladesh can consider earning huge amount of foreign currency by exporting gas. That way, the gas market for Bangladesh would expand and oil companies would feel comfortable about investing more to discover and develop more gas fields," said another Shell official. "But whether Bangladesh should export its gas or not is entirely its own decision."

## Trade and investment

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existing relations between Australia and Bangladesh are very good and would be strengthened further as a result of this tour. The visit would be a creamer on the cake," Flynn said.

Sheikh Hasina will fly to Sydney by Biman and will attend a 'Trade and Investment' seminar on Bangladesh there on the following day. From Sydney she will fly to the capital, Canberra, by an Australian VIP aircraft. She will be received there ceremonially by Prime Minister John Howard.

Official talks between the two prime ministers will take place after "a very high profile reception". The reception ceremony in front of the Parliament House will include a 19-gun salute, guard of honour and display of Bangladesh colours. Later, the Leader of the Opposition, Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs will make courtesy calls on the Bangladesh premier.

The Australian Prime Minister will host a banquet.

The Australian National University will confer an honorary doctorate degree on Sheikh Hasina. She will also plant a sapling at the designated site of Bangladesh embassy in Canberra for which land has already been given.

Flynn said Dhaka and Canberra have "mutuality of views on many subjects". Besides bilateral matters, international issues of common concern will also be discussed during the official talks between the two prime ministers, he said.

"Bangladesh is an important country in the international stage, in Australia's estimation. It has achieved a leadership role in NAM, WTO and other international groupings. It plays an important role in the UN peace-keeping process. Both our countries are members of the Commonwealth."

He however replied in the negative when asked if Canberra would back Dhaka's candidature for the post of Commonwealth Secretary General.

"We have made a choice. We will support New Zealand's candidature. We normally support Bangladesh in all international forums but in this case we will support our neighbour."

"Sometimes friends have to go in different directions," the envoy said smilingly. He explained Australia's active involvement in the UN peace-keeping mission in East Timor. "We have acted with other countries to respond to a security and humanitarian crisis. It is truly a multinational endeavour."

The envoy said Australia is interested in issues concerning its neighbours and wants peace

and development in the Asian region including the Sub-continent.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister's visit will boost bilateral trade, he said. Bangladesh has an adverse balance of trade with Australia now. In fiscal 1998-99, Dhaka's exports stood at only 43.3 million Australian dollars and Canberra's 288 million.

Australian assistance to Bangladesh was to the tune of 36.4 million Australian dollars last year. It was nearly at the same level in the last few years.

"We are satisfied with the aid utilization. Of the total aid, nearly 75 per cent is provided as food security, eight per cent is channelled through NGOs and around 6 per cent is utilised for education, training and scholarships."

The Australian High Commission in Dhaka has separate Aid and Trade departments.

The Australian envoy strongly believes that Bangladesh has tremendous investment potential.

"Our investors have lot of interest to invest in Bangladesh. The Prime Minister's trip and the investment security is expected to whip up lot of interest for investment in Bangladesh."

Explaining, he said, "You have a population of 126 million. Even if half of them are below poverty line, the other half provides a huge and growing middle class market. You have a liberalised economy. Considering the tremendous market potential, our investors are eyeing the Bangladesh market."

Flynn said his country's businessmen would like to invest in food processing, dairy, oil seeds, services associated with development of gas, telecommunication and "downstream manufacturing".

Asked if he had any comment about the political situation, Flynn said, "It is not appropriate to comment. We would not like to be involved in your domestic politics. However, we would like to contribute to good governance by providing assistance for training in parliamentary practice."

Robert Flynn said he is "really excited" about further developing Dhaka-Canberra relations and expressed his and his country's admiration for Bangladesh cricket.

"We are particularly happy about your cricket performance. We hope scholarships to your country for training in Australia will develop of cricket."

"We may provide you greater support if you can beat the English team that I hear is coming to play in Bangladesh next year," said a visibly happy Robert Flynn.

## Pak army chief

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cided Musharraf said he would address the nation. However, there was no indication of when that might be.

Also today Musharraf met US Ambassador William Milam.

"He will be passing the message that the United States continues to believe that there should be a prompt return to civilian rule and a restoration of the democratic process in Pakistan," said State Department spokesman James Foley.

But when the meeting finished Pakistan's state-run news agency issued a terse three paragraph announcement saying only that the two "exchanged views... on matters of mutual interest."

Meanwhile, the State Bank of Pakistan issued a statement freezing the accounts of all Pakistan's lawmakers and their spouses. The order simply said the accounts would be frozen "until further notice."

Musharraf reportedly wants corruption exposed before politicians try to seek office in early elections and is planning to appoint a panel to investigate alleged abuses by Sharif and other officials.

The proclamation, declaring Musharraf supreme leader, said the country's figurehead president would remain in office, but would be subservient to the army chief. Provincial and federal legislators were dismissed along with senior government ministers and the chairman and deputy chairman of the Senate.

Sharif's son-in-law was arrested late Wednesday at his home and documents detailing family businesses were seized, according to intelligence sources.

Hafeez Pirzada, a constitutional expert, said there are "indications" that the ousted prime minister could be charged with treason, which carries the death penalty. However, he did not elaborate.

"I hope to God whatever action they take is through the normal courts because we may run into some criticism if he is tried with a court martial," Pirzada said.

While courts will continue to function, they will not be able to challenge the army chief's position as chief executive or the state of emergency.

The imposition of a caretaker rule came despite international appeals for a restoration of constitutional democracy.

"The whole of Pakistan will come under the control of the Armed Forces of Pakistan," said a proclamation issued today on government television and radio.

Intelligence sources told The Associated Press that the decision to seize control reportedly followed two days of failed attempts by Musharraf to force the National Assembly to vote out Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at a session originally scheduled for today. Sharif was ousted on Tuesday in a bloodless military coup.

The military has launched an investigation into what it calls an attempt to exile or kill the army chief, a high-altitude

drama that began the military takeover of Pakistan's elected government, newspapers reported today.

The army accused Sharif of ordering the commercial airliner bringing Gen Pervez Musharraf home from Sri Lanka on Tuesday to land outside Pakistan, in what it called a "murder plot" that could have cost the lives of all 200 people on board.

Musharraf referred to the incident early Wednesday in an address to the nation announcing the army had seized control of the country and dismissed Sharif.

Since then, more details have emerged of the drama on board the Pakistan International Airlines airliner.

"On my way back, the PIA commercial flight was not allowed to land at Karachi but was ordered to be diverted anywhere outside Pakistan, despite acute shortage of fuel, imperiling the life of all the passengers," said Musharraf.

Thanks to Allah, this evil design was thwarted through speedy army action," he said.

Reports from intelligence sources and Pakistan's newspapers said the plane had fuel for less than 10 more minutes in the air when the drama ended.

## PM

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the octogenarian poet could not attend due to sickness. In her message, Sufia Kamal wished Hasina's success in the fight against anti-liberation fundamentalist forces.

Mayor of Dhaka city Mohammad Hanif, Justice KM Subhan, educationist Dr. Neelima Ibrahim, Chittagong University VC Prof Abdul Mannan, Chakma King Debashish Roy Bar-at-Law, veteran journalist Obaidul Haq, dramatist Mamatuzzuddin Ahmed, and Supreme Court Bar Association Vice-president Amirul Islam in their speeches congratulated the prime minister on her winning the peace prize.

The prime minister said the CHT problem was political and "we decided to solve it politically" through talks with the tribal leaders.

Narrating the current peaceful situation in the CHT, Hasina said, "I felt the region with such a natural beauty should not be marked by bloody clashes for years. Peace and only peace suits the area," she said.

The PM also listed all the steps taken by her government for development of the CHT region and improvement of the lot of people there. She sought co-operation from all quarters for this.

Turning to Bangladesh's winning the UNSC membership, she said this has proved the world community's confidence in our country. "Bangladesh's image abroad has brightened. I need your support to present a prosperous Bangladesh and I am confident of my success with the support of our peace-loving and hard-working people."