

News

What's on today....

Memorial meeting: A memorial meeting will be held to mark the 10th death anniversary of Dr Md Ibrahim, founder of BIRDEM. Venue: BIRDEM auditorium (2nd floor), Shahbagh. Time: 11.00 am.

Film Show: Three German films *Man of Straw*, *The Bridge* and *Comedian Harmonists* will be screened on the second day of German Film Week '99. Organiser: German Embassy. Venue: Goethe Institut, House no 10, Road no 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 2.00 pm, 4.30 pm and 7.00 pm.

Silver jubilee programme: A programme will be held to mark the silver jubilee programme of the Finance and Banking Department of Dhaka University. Venue: Conference room of DU Business Faculty. Time: 3.00 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.

..... and tomorrow

Exchange of views meet: Ain O Unnayan Sangstha will hold a exchange of views meet with journalists on the topic of creating awareness about empowerment of women. Venue: Sangstha premises at 78 New Airport Road (third floor), Tejgaon. Time: 10.00 am.

Film Show: Three German films *The Marks of Stones*, *Faust and Tadeloser* & *Wolf* will be screened on the third day of German Film Week '99. Organiser: German Embassy. Venue: Goethe Institut, House no 10, Road no 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 2.00 pm, 4.30 pm and 7.00 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.

Seminar: Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (CESTI) of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will hold a seminar on 'headache and its diagnostic strategy in the next millennium'. Venue: Sasakawa auditorium, ICDDR,B Cholera Hospital, Mohakhali. Time: 3.00 pm.

Inauguration: Chinese revolution Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee will hold the inauguration of the programmes for celebration of the occasion. Venue: Engineers Institute auditorium. Time: 4.00 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Light rain may occur at one or two places over Chittagong divisions and weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Hatiya and the lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.25 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.01 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.7	24.7	64	77
Chittagong	34.1	25.5	85	81
Rajshahi	31.8	24.7	76	85
Khulna	33.3	25.4	80	78
Barisal	33.0	25.4	83	-
Sylhet	31.7	23.9	73	80
Cox's Bazar	33.8	25.0	77	86

HERE and THERE

Midas Mini Mart

The fourth unit of MIDAS MINI MART — a sales and display centre of readymade garments, saree, boutique, handicraft and gift items, home made frozen snacks, bonsai plants, etc at 61, Shiddeswari, Dhaka was inaugurated by Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries recently, says a press release.

The function was presided over by Rokia A Rahim, member, MIDAS Board of Directors Dr Mohammad Farasuddin, Governor, Bangladesh Bank, Dr H B M Iqbal, MP, Karen L Casper, Representative of The Asia Foundation and Abdul Karim, Managing Director, MIDAS.

They were also present on the occasion and addressed the gathering.

The MINI MART is managed by a group of women entrepreneurs. MIDAS provides financial, technical and managerial assistance to micro and small enterprises, specially those sponsored by women.

NID

A NID campaign involving public representatives like UP chairmen and members and religious leaders will be launched for finding out the dropout children who are not immunised against polio, reports UNB.

The recommendation came from the NID National Steering Committee meeting at the Health Ministry yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf told the meeting that the government was firmly committed to building a polio-free Bangladesh by year 2000.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof Dr M Amanullah, DGs of Health Services and Family Planning, WHO representatives and other senior officials were present.

The meeting emphasised the need for intensifying polio-eradication activities and strengthening management system.

It took a decision to hold a review meeting next January for evaluation of the achievement.

The meeting urged the authorities concerned to launch an extensive publicity in this regard.

BAGSAP

A 51-member executive committee of the Bangladesh Public Employees Federation (BAGSAP) has been formed with Sultan Alam Mallik and Md Nasir Uddin as its president and secretary general respectively, says a press release.

The committee was formed at the biennial council of the organisation held in the city on Saturday.

The council in a resolution demanded of the government to meet its 16-point demand, otherwise, they warned, they would

Ban on 16 cos

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16 companies last month. The allegation against these companies was the presence of forged scripts in the market.

To scrutinise their share certificates, the CSE and CSE asked these companies to complete their book closure immediately.

The association of the listed companies demanded withdrawal of the ban saying that such actions without discussing with the stakeholders had created panic in the market.

They held a meeting few days back with the SEC and demanded withdrawal of the ban to bring back confidence among the investors.

It has also asked the 16 companies to complete their book closure for the sake of a fake certificate-free market.

Responding to the directive of the DSE and CSE and the request of the Association, the companies started book closure immediately. "Most of them are about to complete the requirement to check and recheck the availability of fake shares," said a leader of the Association.

Used syringes

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manufactured 'sterile non-toxic pyrogen-free syringes' was detected recently.

But on inspection by Drug Administration (DA) officials, the factory was found lacking 'sterility and leak testing facilities' — a must for packing of disposable syringes.

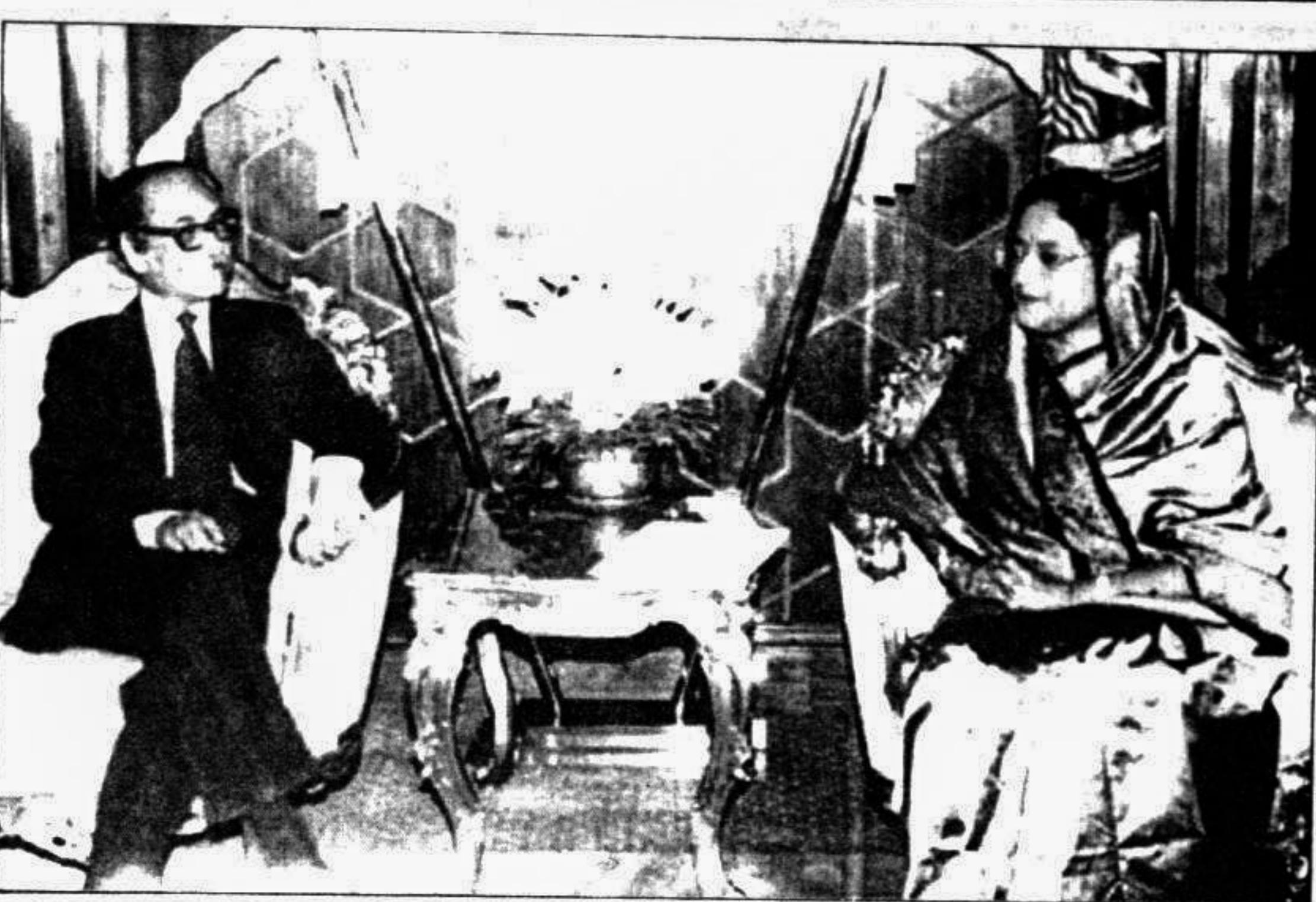
When contacted, Director of DA Dr Abdul Malek said, "Since we do not have any control over such trade, we are really unable to check this."

Referring to import of such items, he said, "We proposed bringing such import under strict control. There has been some progress in this regard. Talks on the issue between the health and the commerce ministries would soon take place for an immediate solution to the problem."

Dr Malek also said, "Once we have the authority to control such trade, I believe the problem would be solved to a large extent."

A microbiologist said, "Presence of any bacteria or fungi in a syringe not disinfected can be fatal. The micro-organism that is pushed along with the liquid in the vein of a patient may cause deadly reaction and may even lead to death."

Plastic syringes are usually made from polypropylene and polyethylene plastic and are marketed as 'sterile packaged' items. Any leak is likely to attract micro-organisms which may have 'deadly consequences', experts say.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

— PID photo

Home Minister pleased with law & order in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, Oct 24: Home Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim today said political neutrality and strong determination of the law enforces paved the way for the success of the campaign to establish law and order in the south western districts, reports BSS.

The home minister said that the law and order in Faridpur is satisfactory but the government agencies, police and local district administration should be vigilant about possible infiltration of branded terrorists from the neighbouring Khulna and Barisal region.

He also said that security is a pre-requisite for achieving economic prosperity, political stability and success of democratic polity.

Mohammad Nasim was addressing a law and order coordination conference of Faridpur region in the conference hall of the deputy commissioner.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Inspector General of Police AYBI Siddiqui, Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Nizamuddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Police Superintendents (SPs) of Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Sharapuri and Gopalganj, Awami League leader Khondoker Mosharrar Hossain and Chairman of Faridpur Municipality Mohammad Hasibul Hasan Lablu,

among others, addressed the conference.

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He also said that security is a pre-requisite for achieving economic prosperity, political stability and success of democratic polity.

Mohammad Nasim said the administration and police should be transparent and accountable for their activities.

He urged the people to assist police in introducing community policing system and urged them not to give shelter to any terrorists.

The home minister said the criminals and terrorists should be dealt with severely but police should be cautious during interactions with law-abiding citizens.

Mohammad Nasim said the terrorists and anti-social elements have only one option — that is surrendering before the lawful authority.

Referring to a press report about accountability of the lower-tier of judiciary, the

Border talks

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lay exchange of enclaves, the officials pointed out.

In the last DG level meeting between BDR and BSF in New Delhi, when exchange of enclaves was raised on the ground that the Indian parliament ratified the agreement long ago, the Indian side said that they would seek opinion of their government on the issue.

There are 111 Bangladeshi enclaves covering over 17,258 acres of land on the Indian side of the border and 51 Indian enclaves covering 7083.52 acres on the Bangladeshi side.

Bangladesh will gain over 10,000 acres of land if the enclaves are exchanged, the officials said.

Supporting the South African system, he said, "There is a Supreme Judicial Commission headed by the Chief Justice in South Africa. The commission comprises of judges, journalists, representatives from the ruling and opposition parties and different professional bodies. It appoints persons who are committed to the rule of law and human rights as High Court judges through interviews."

The law minister then said he had informal talks with the Chief Justice in this regard. Besides, he added, the idea had also been discussed by the three-member committee comprising the Chief Justice, chief of the Law Commission and the law minister which was now working to bring about some radical changes in the existing judicial system of the country.

Law minister

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can appoint two more judges, they can by rotation monitor and supervise the functioning of the lower courts."

The practice is very much there at the moment. But they (the HC judges) are not being able to do the task properly. It's not due to any fault on the part of the judiciary. I don't even blame the Supreme Judicial Council or the Supreme Court ... This is because of shortage of the judges," the law minister said.

Khasru termed accountability of the judiciary "very sensitive" but "it is need of the time that we talk about it".

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20 hurt

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leaving five persons injured.

A series of cocktails were exploded and bricks pelted at police during the clash. Police and pickets were also locked in battles at Muradpur and Badda during the shutdown, witnesses said.

Supporters of ruling Awami League held anti-hartal rallies at New Market crossing and in Baddamtoli and Agrabad areas today.

However, all kinds of vehicles except few rickshaws stayed off the road while shops and markets remained closed.

Delivery of cargo to and from Chittagong port remained suspended during hartal called by opposition alliance to protest what it said police attack on opposition supporters and Jam-e-Mosque during Thursday's hartal.

Meanwhile, UNB adds: Rickshaw Sramik Joti claimed that about 50 rickshaws were damaged in different parts of the city, including Dewanganj, Andarkillah, Chakhabazm Muadrapur, Jubilee Road and Nur Mohammad Road.

In the evening, the opposition parties held a rally at Lalbagh Maidan where they announced steps to take legal actions against police for attacks and also against the Chittagong City Mayor for "using police for party purpose."

'Voyage of Discovery' to reach Sri Lanka soon

John Player Gold Leaf, the record-breaking 80ft racing yacht, will make its scheduled arrival in Sri Lanka this week, to complete yet another phase of its 170-day Voyage of Discovery that has so far taken it to 14 countries spread across three continents, says a press release.

The tropical paradise of Sri Lanka, whose incredible association with history and culture remains unparalleled, has always fascinated the crew," said Joe Outred, Captain of the John Player Gold Leaf.

Before arriving in Sri Lanka, the boat will pause for refuelling at India's premier holiday destination, Goa.

In Dubai, its previous destination, the Voyage of Discovery was the focus of an unprecedented media attention and public interest. Arriving in the country at the start of the autumn, the crew was welcomed with a host of subcontinental cultural acts, including

the

CTBT

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agreed to push for the installation of "hotline" telephone links between the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Chirac and Jiang also discussed human rights for three hours yesterday evening.

Jiang was quoted as saying that it had been the most comprehensive conversation on the subject he had ever had with a foreign leader.

After Chirac had expressed his "worries" about political and religious freedoms in China, Jiang told him he wanted to make progress in this field "step by step."

Garbage

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take revenge for damage of garbage carrying trucks during last Thursday's hartal.

A large number of partly men, local residents and pressmen visited the residence of the former mayor.

When contacted, Mayor Mohiuddin said: "I have not yet heard about the incident, but maybe it was done by the conservancy people of the corporation as the opposition attack on them during the hartal hours angered them seriously."

"It is a tit-for-tat act as I warned the opposition leaders here twice earlier that garbage will be dumped in front of their houses if garbage-carrying trucks and employees were attacked during hartal period," Mohiuddin said.

"Actually I