

News

● What's on today ●

Conference: Bangladesh Rheumatology Society will hold its 2nd scientific conference. Venue: BCPS auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 9.00 am.

Film Show: Four German films *The Little Attorney*, *Knockin on Heaven's Door*, *Black Rider* and *No More Mr. Nice Guy* will be screened on the fourth 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, 7.00 pm and 7.15 pm.

Lecture: Dr Deb Kumar Roy, Assistant Professor, Media Lab, MIT (USA) will present a lecture on "Multilingual Computing". Venue: Grameen Bank auditorium, Mirpur. 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.

Certificate awarding ceremony: The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Managers of Bangladesh will hold a certificate awarding ceremony. Chief guest: Abdul Matin Khasru, Minister for Law, Justice and parliamentary Affairs. Venue: Panda Garden (Abbas Garden), Mohakhali. Time: 7.00 pm.

● and tomorrow ●

Film Show: Three German films *Comedian Harmonists*, *Rossini* and *The Tin Drum* will be screened on the final 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.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Light rain may occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, said Met office adding that weather may deteriorate in next two days.

The country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and the lowest 20.5 degree Celsius at Satkhira and Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:23 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:02 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	33.0	23.8	64	76
Chittagong	33.5	24.4	73	77
Rajshahi	31.6	22.4	81	77
Khulna	32.0	22.5	66	94
Barisal	32.7	22.3	71	79



*Prothom Alo organised a roundtable on 'Recent trend in Bangladeshi films' at Hotel Sheraton yesterday.

Prothom Alo roundtable on films

Vulgarism in Bengali movies castigated

Personalities in the film industry at a roundtable yesterday blasted over increasing trend of 'vulgarism' in Bengali movies and said films are alarmingly affecting the values of the nation instead of reflecting society properly, reports BSS.

Organised by the daily Prothom Alo, the roundtable on 'recent trend of Bangladeshi films' touched all gamut of the film industry of the country.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed attended the roundtable as the chief guest while Information Secretary M Akmal Hossain as the special guest.

Eminent litterateur Syed Shamsul Huq, Editor of the daily Prothom Alo Motiur Rahman, legendary film actor Abdur Razzaq, President of Bangladesh film producers and distributors association Masud Parvez, member of the Film Censor Board Kabari Sarwar, Mursheedul Islam, actor Riaz, Popy and owner of the Lion Cinema Mirza Abdul Khaleque also spoke at the roundtable held at Sheraton Hotel.

The speakers discussed in detail the history of Bengali film, film policy, atmosphere in cinema halls, social values, sky culture. Film Censor Board, cut peace, import of foreign quality films, artists exploitation, down trend of cinema goers, infiltration of terrorists and criminals in the industry, role of law enforcers, government initiatives and the responsibilities of all quarters for the survival of the industry.

Initiating the discussion Prof Sayeed said there must have a vision behind every creation. "But unfortunately the vision and virtuous message are rarely found in the recent Bengali films," he said, adding the films should be created and dedicated for extracting 'good taste' in the minds of the common people, especially for the middle class society.

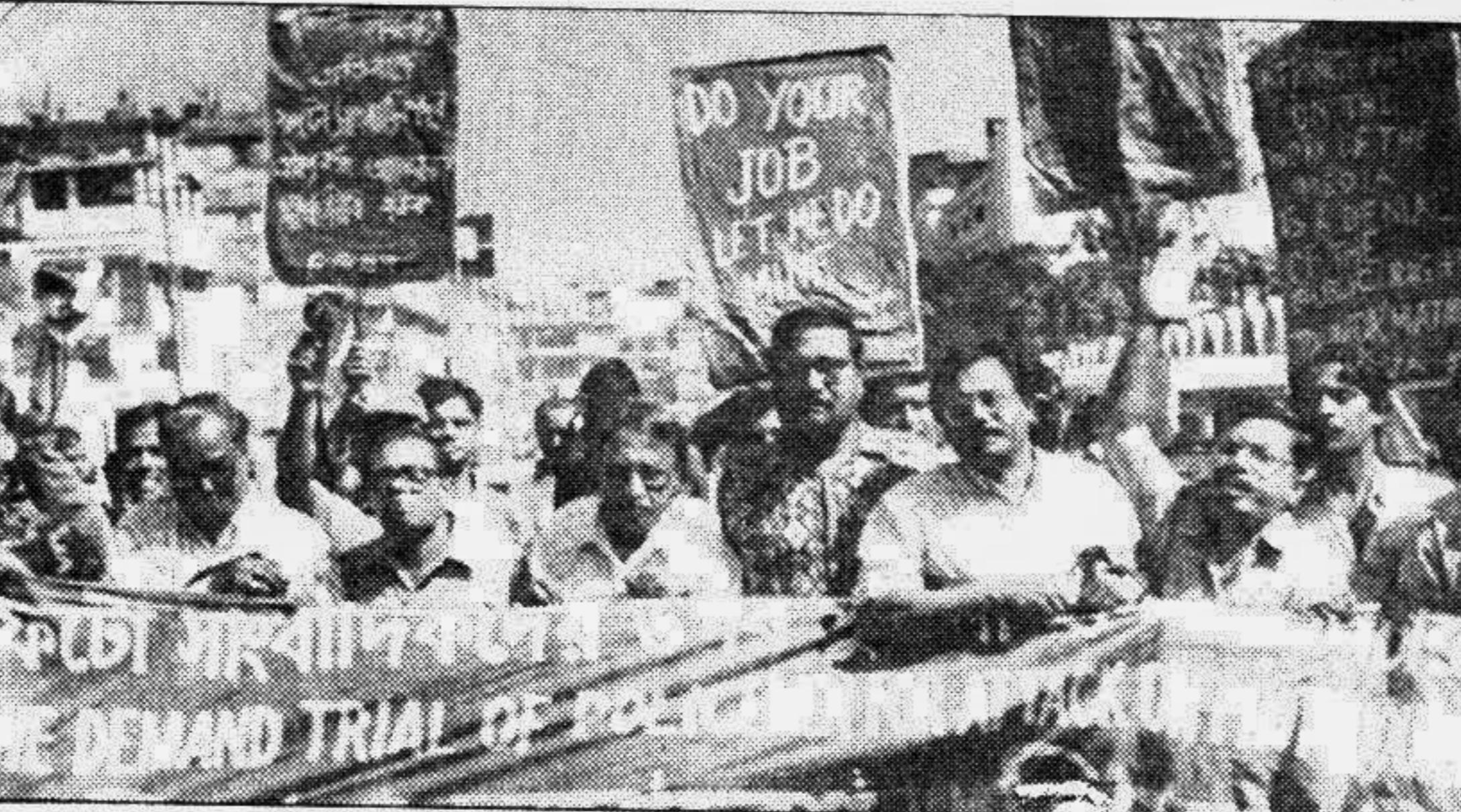
Prof Sayeed said film makers should consider that they are not out of society and they have an accountability for society.

Considering all these things the government is going to announce a national film policy very soon. To this effect, he said, the draft report preparation is nearly to completion.

Another policy is likely in the shortest possible time to resist infiltration of harmful alien culture in the name of free flow of sky culture. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already directed to take all necessary steps in protecting the values



BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at the Kuliarchar Pilot High School under Kishoreganj district yesterday. —Star photo



BFUJ staged a rally in the city yesterday in protest of the recent attack on photojournalists by police. —Star photo

Indian, Pakistani envoys meet Noor Uddin

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Deb Mukherjee called on Science and Technology Minister Ltd General (Retd) Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan at his office yesterday.

During the meeting they discussed matters of mutual and bilateral interests with special emphasis on strengthening co-operation between the two countries in the science and technology sector, an official press release said.

Earlier, Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh M Iqbal Ahmad Khan called on Noor Uddin Khan at his office. He stayed with the minister for some time and discussed matters relating to mutual and bilateral interest, added the release.

Science and Technology Secretary M Fazlur Rahman was present during the meetings.

Bangla Academy exams postponed

The written examination for vacant posts of officers at the Bangla Academy, scheduled to be held at 10:00 am on Friday at Dhaka College, has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says an Academy press release.

Prof N Islam honoured

By Staff Correspondent

Professor Nurul Islam has been awarded a medal by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in recognition of his service as an Emeritus Overseas Regional Adviser in 1998," said a press release last night.

The president of the college Professor James C Petrie presented him the medal on September 26 during the 10th annual conference of the API Delhi chapter last month, it added.

Rejoinder

By Staff Correspondent

Three agriculturists in a rejoinder to a Daily Star item on "Leading agriculturists condemn govt move" denouncing plans to open agri-facilities in Science and Technology Universities said that no such resolution was adopted at the meeting of the agriculturists last week.

The rejoinder was issued by Professor Mohammad Hossain Bhuiyan, General Secretary of Bangladesh Agricultural Institute, Old Boys Association, Professor Mohammad Shahidullah, Principal, Bangladesh Agricultural Institute and Zahidul Haque.

Kabari sought government help to stop screening 'cut peace' in some cinema hall in the country even in the hub of the capital Dhaka. He called upon all to create platform in their respective positions against vulgarism and conspiracies to destroy the future generation.

Riaz and Popy alleged that the artistes, especially the heroines are sometimes exploited by the directors as they compelled them on wearing indecent clothes. "Sometimes a heroine has to wear costumes contrary to our culture and the values of herself," said Popy who was seemed to be hesitant for the comment.

Lion Cinema all proprietor categorically acknowledged that some unscrupulous businessmen in the industry were allegedly involved in screening 'cut peace' in shows.

Giving the winding up speech of the roundtable Motiur Rahman expressed his desire to hold more such discussions to exchange views for the development of this sector. He also sought help from the ministry of information to this affect.

6 digits digital conversion work begins Friday night

All the present six digits digital telephone numbers of Dhaka city starting with the figure '8' will be converted into seven digits for technical reason, according to a T&T press release yesterday.

The conversion work will start from 11:55 pm on Friday night as part of the countrywide telephone expansion programme.

In this process all the present digital telephones starting with the figure '8' will be changed but the last four digits of all the present telephone numbers will remain the same. The first two digits will be converted into three digits.

The first two digits of the present number in Mirpur exchange starting with 80 will be changed into 801 while the first two digits of present number in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar exchange starting with 81 and 82 will be changed into 811 and 812.

Besides, the first two digits of present number in Uttara exchange starting with 89 will be changed into 891.

The press release said during the conversion process, the subscribers may face temporary problems. T&T Board regrets for the inconvenience caused to the valued subscribers, the press release added.

The first two digits of the present number in Mirpur exchange starting with 80 will be changed into 801 while the first two digits of present number in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar exchange starting with 81 and 82 will be changed into 811 and 812.

The first two digits of the present number in Uttara exchange starting with 89 will be changed into 891.

The press release said during the conversion process, the subscribers may face temporary problems. T&T Board regrets for the inconvenience caused to the valued subscribers, the press release added.

The leaders of Rotary International yesterday revealed that three types of polio virus named P1, P2 and P3 originating from neighbouring Myanmar have been infecting children in the country.

Bangladesh has achieved about 76 per cent success in its polio vaccination programme though it is claimed that the rate is more than 95 per cent, the leaders alleged.

He said Rotary has so far spent 19.2 million dollars for the cause in the country and has also donated a US\$ 85,000 refrigeration van. It has also allocated 10 million dollars for the national laboratory to carry out polio detection tests.

The leaders also expressed their willingness to work for arsenic mitigation programme in the country.

"Water in 59 districts out of 64 is contaminated with arsenic in the country, the leaders said.

Ittekhul Alam termed arsenic as a silent killer and urged people to create awareness regarding the adverse effects of arsenicosis.

Rotary International will initiate Polio plus, a polio vaccination programme on November 2 and December 2 this year. They will also form a human chain in the city to create awareness regarding Polio Plus and arsenic problems at 10:00 am on October 31. Other than their own members scouts, girls guide and students from different schools will take part in the programme.

Rotary International has been encouraging the government to come forward with a resolution to eradicate polio from the world by the year 2005 and Rotary Clubs will spend US \$ 313 billion dollars for the treatment of 1 billion children so far," Farooq said.

In Bangladesh Rotarians are working along with the government, UNICEF, EPI and other donor agencies to eliminate the disease, he informed.

Rotary International has been encouraging the government to come forward with a resolution to eradicate polio from the world by the year 2005 and Rotary Clubs will spend US \$ 313 billion dollars for the treatment of 1 billion children so far," Farooq said.

Rotary International will initiate Polio plus, a polio vaccination programme on November 2 and December 2 this year. They will also form a human chain in the city to create awareness regarding Polio Plus and arsenic problems at 10:00 am on October 31. Other than their own members scouts, girls guide and students from different schools will take part in the programme.

The demands include, ensuring security and congenital work atmosphere of the doctors, punishing the attackers and realizing compensation and ensuring presence of specialist doctor in hospital during admission.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.

The Dhaka Dental College Teachers' Association (DDCTA) at its academic council meeting yesterday in view of the attack announced indefinite strike from Tuesday.