

## What's on today....

**CDRB Seminar:** Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) has organised a seminar on 'Generating Academic interest about Bangladesh: The Role of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies'. Keynote paper: Dr Syedur Rahman, President, AIBS and coordinator of Hubert H Humphrey program at Penn State University, USA. Venue: WVA auditorium, Road No: 27 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Art furniture show:** A two-week long art furniture and pottery lamps exhibition by Arhamul Haq Chowdhury will begin. Venue: Aranya, 60, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani. Time: 10 am. The exhibition will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm daily till November 19.

**Clinical meet:** ZH Sikder Cardiac Care and Research Centre has organised a clinical meeting on 'Stable Angina'. Keynote speaker: Dr Mutassimul Karim, MBBB, D Card. Venue: Conference Hall of ZH Sikder Cardiac Care and Research Centre, Monica Estate, West Dhanmondi. Time: 8 am.

**Doctors' meet:** Community Care Hospital has organised a meeting to exchange views with doctors educated in the Soviet Union/Russia. Venue: Community Care Hospital Training Centre, 109 DIT Road, Malibagh. Time: 3 pm.

**Seminar:** Meghnad Shahe Science Information Centre and Literary will hold a seminar on 'Antarctica Continent' to create interest about science among students and general people. Keynote Speaker: Inam Al Haq. Venue: FREPD auditorium, Sonargaon Road, Plassey Crossing, DU. Time: 4 pm.

**Reception:** 'BADC Agriculturists' Association will accord a reception to Abdul Mannan, Secretary General of Agriculturists' Institution, Bangladesh for his contribution to reconstruct the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation. venue: BARC auditorium. Time: 10 am.

**Discussion meet:** Colonel Taher Sangsad has organised a discussion meeting on 'Military coup in Pakistan: A threat to Democracy in the Sub-continent'. Hassanal Haq Inu, ABM Musa, Ajay Roy, Prof Syed Monjurul Islam and Raosan Jahan Sathi will take part in the discussion. Venue: Shaheed Dr Milon Square, TSC Road Island. DU. Time: 4 pm.

**Reunion:** Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee has organised a 'Bijoya Saman' (Reunion). Chief guest: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru. A Lokonkya Dal production 'Konjush' will be staged. Venue: Dhakeshwari National Temple's Fair Ground. Time: 4 pm.

**Lecture:** The Munshi Aftabuddin and Abdul Hafiz Trust Fund Lecture '99 will be held. Prof Kulsun Abul Bashar Majumder of Department of Urdu and Persian in Dhaka University will deliver the lecture on 'Persian Books Translated into Bengali'. Venue: Seminar Room of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. Time: ?

## Weather

## Dry weather likely

Weather may remain mainly dry over the country in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country during the period, according to Met Office.

The country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Jessore and the lowest 20.8 degrees at Satkhira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.17 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.08 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and town yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.2	21.9	61	64
Chittagong	32.5	23.5	50	85
Rajshahi	31.0	22.2	79	96
Khulna	32.0	23.4	80	83
Barisal	32.2	23.5	80	-
Sylhet	32.5	21.4	66	77
Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.4	80	80

## HERE and THERE

## GBA

By Staff Correspondent

Graduate Biochemist Association (GBA), Bangladesh yesterday organised a symposium on 'Biochemistry as a profession in Bangladesh' and its annual general meeting at BIRDEM auditorium.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah was the chief guest at the ceremony while Dr M A Kadri, Vice Chancellor of Bangabandhu Medical University, attended the programme as a special guest.

Speakers in the symposium underscored the role and need of biochemist in pharmaceutical industry and diagnostic centres.

A 15-member new executive committee of GBA was later formed at the AGM.

## Nat'l Assoc of Unesco clubs

Speakers at a discussion yesterday expressed the hope that UNESCO would continue its commendable role in invigorating the essence of world peace, reports UNB.

National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh organised the meeting on the occasion of the 53rd founding anniversary of UNESCO.

Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haque, Mir Ramjan Ali, Advocate MG Kibria Mukul and Mohammad Sharif, among others, addressed the meeting held with association General Mahbubuddin.

## Anniversary of death of Maj Gen Khaled Mosharraf tomorrow

The 24th death anniversary of Shaheed Major General Khaled Mosharraf, BIA Uttam, Commander of Sector 2 during the War of Liberation, will be observed on November 7, reports BSS.

On this day in 1975, Khaled Mosharraf was killed by some miscreants.

A mild *mafil* will be held tomorrow at 11 am at his Gulshan residence (House-20, Road-56, Gulshan-2 A).

## Waj, doa mahfil November 9

A grand *waj* and *doa mahfil* on the occasion of the 9th death anniversary of Syed Golam Sarwar Miah will be held on Syed Bari of Chatkhil under Noakhali district, reports BSS.

Peierhazat Maulana Abu Ashraf will attend the occasion as the chief guest while eminent Islamic thinkers will take part in the *waj*. Alhaj Hazrat Maulana Abu Noman Mohammad Abdul Haq of Chatkhil will preside.

## Indian cyclone death toll rises to 1,361

NEW DELHI. Nov 5: Indian officials today said the death toll in last week's devastating cyclone in the eastern state of Orissa had risen to 1,361, reports AFP.

Estimates of a final figure, however, have been put as high as 10,000.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpeyi on Friday toured some of the devastated areas of Orissa for a first hand assessment of the situation, officials said.

An official communiqué said the cyclone had affected over 12 million people, inundated about 323,000 hectares (797,810-acres) of farmland and killed some 25,000 cattle.

It said 276,000 homes had collapsed or were damaged along with 600 government buildings and 1,200 school buildings. There were widespread breaches on several roads and highways.

In the badly-hit district of Balasore, there were reports of diarrhoea in almost every household, the statement said.

Officials said about 16,000 tonnes of emergency food supplies were being sent to Orissa.

The Bangla Department of Dhaka University has conferred PhD degree on M Zaman Khan.

He was awarded the PhD for his thesis titled 'Bangalee Muslim Psyche of the First Half of Twenty Century and Literary Works of S Wazed Ali'.

Zaman is an Assistant Professor of Bengali Department of Dhaka College.

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## Country at impending risk of HIV/AIDS

CHITTAGONG, Nov 5: The gradual increase in the number of AIDS patient in Bangladesh might put the country at the risk of facing an epidemic of the deadly disease if remedial and preventive measures are not taken and enforced strictly.

A total of 126 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) have been reported in the country till. Of them, 104 are males and 22 females. The number of PLHA was 106 in 1998, whereas it was 76 in 1996. Professor Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Head of the Department of Virology, Bangabandhu Medical University, told BSS on Wednesday.

Of the infected persons, six, including a foreign national, died of the killer disease. Prof. Islam said, adding that five more HIV/AIDS infected patients are undergoing treatment.

The division-wise break-up of HIV/AIDS patients are: Sylhet-32, Chittagong-28, Dhaka-27, Khulna-5, Rajshahi-2, Barisal-2, and foreigners-6 of Myanmar, Thailand, Korea and Spain while 24 are in other places.

According to WHO, 70 to 80 per cent transmission of HIV positive cases are due to the high rate of prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). STD is spreading in Bangladesh, being a neighbour to India and bordered by others, HIV-infected countries as well as its proximity to the Golden Triangle, is at serious risk from HIV/AIDS, experts observed.

The experts of the national AIDS committee of Bangladesh, in their survey, revealed that there are approximately one and a half lakh commercial sex workers in Bangladesh, most of whom are illiterate and divorced. The clients of those sex workers are usually businessmen, students, rickshaw pullers, truck drivers and foreigners.

Around 74,000 workers migrate out every year from Bangladesh, 50 per cent of all youth Bangladesh have pre-marital sex while on an average 10,000 tourists from foreign countries visit the country each year. These are the possible modes of entry and spread of HIV in Bangladesh, experts said.

The principal investigator of the programme for National Sentinel Surveillance for HIV and Syphilis, Prof. Nazrul Islam, said.

The study, which also aimed at examining the relationship between seropositivity and socio-demographic characteristics of STDs revealed that 75 per cent of the respondents do not know that the sexual intercourse with multiple partners could prevent the transmission of and acquisition of AIDS and STDs.

Barua pointed out that the low level of knowledge, the high risk sexual behaviors and lack of usage of condoms together with the high prevalence of syphilis among STDs in the country are at the risk of HIV epidemic in near future.

Infection has already started moving from core people to the general population. The time between infection with HIV and development of the serious illness that defines AIDS is around eight years and most patients do not survive much more than two years after the onset of the AIDS, the UNAIDS reports observed.

The book is the first by the author to be translated into a foreign language.

Tsui, who is known in Japan for his writings as well as his talents as a rock singer, said his story line was inspired by his grandfather, a gunsmith who built a white Buddha on the island of Omo.

The novel is about a young boy, Minoru, who is separated from his first love named Otoya. Years later, Minoru, by then a famous gunsmith and married with six children, still cannot forget Otoya.

Although the Prix Femina does not carry any monetary reward, it guarantees winners will make it onto the best-seller list.

## Indian navy ships leave Ctg Port

The visiting Indian Naval Ships left the Chittagong port yesterday after a four-day goodwill visit, reports BSS.

Indian Rear Admiral Venkatesh Tarathon called on Mayor of Chittagong ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury during the visit.

He also called on Commodore Commanding, Chittagong AKM Azad and Commodore Commanding BN Flota Commodore MK Azad.

The officers and sailors of the India Navy visited the Naval Academy, a Naval Base and Sitakunda.

The Indian Navy ships also took part in a joint Naval exercise with Bangladesh Navy.

## Japanese author wins French Femina prize

PARIS, Nov 5: Japanese author Hitonari Tsuji was awarded one of France's top literary prizes, the Prix Femina, today for his novel entitled 'The White Buddha,' reports AFP.

Tsui, 40, a native of Tokyo, said after the announcement at the upscale Hotel Crillon that he was delighted with the prize and as having so many readers in France.

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## Asian Art

From page 1 and artists of divergent cultures, he said.

Since 1981, Dhaka has been the host of this splendid art exhibition that so far brought a good number of leading artists and painters of different countries, promoting peace and harmony as well as goodwill and cooperation among the peoples of Asia-Pacific and Africa.

Quader said the exhibition will simultaneously take place at the galleries of Shilpakala Academy, National Museum, Osmany Memorial Hall, and Shishu Academy auditoriums in the city. In all, 630 works of 328 artists and painters including 205 art pieces of 168 Bangladeshi artists will be on display, he said.

The African artists are participating in the Asian Art Biennale for the first time this year, while it was limited to only Asia-Pacific countries till the last exhibition.

## Cancer hospital

From page 1 for procuring the drugs, but CMSD could not utilise the money for reasons best known to them.

Tele-therapy radiation expert Dr Quamruzzaman said, 'We treated over 5,000 referred cancer patients last year. The only treatment available now at the hospital is high dose brachy therapy radiation (two).'

Radiation oncologist at the hospital Dr Sk Golam Mostafa, who is also responsible for drawing and disbursing drugs, said, 'There is no end to woes. We get many patients who need the drugs, but we are helpless.'

Chemotherapy injections and capsules are usually imported from The Netherlands, South Korea, Germany and Japan. Prices of the drugs range from Tk 300 to Tk 11,000 a vial.

Dr Quamruzzaman said, 'CMSD had floated tender last year for a second tele-therapy cobalt machine, but it was suspended for reasons not known.'

## NATO delays Bosnia troop reduction

BRUSSELS, Nov 5: NATO is to delay a planned reduction of its 31,000-strong Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia until after municipal elections next April, NATO sources said today.

Fears that violence between Bosnia's Muslim, Serb and Croat communities might flare up at polling time lie behind the decision, according to the sources.

'Local authorities in SFOR areas are always wary of tensions among the population during election periods,' a military source told AFP in Brussels, where the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is based.

To remove 10,000 troops in one sweep is not an easy thing to do. It would upset the cohesion of the peace force.'

Municipal elections are scheduled for April 8, and previous polls have been periods of heightened security.

SFOR, a multinational force led by NATO, deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina at the end of 1995 with 60,000 troops as part of the Dayton peace accords that halted the 1992-95 war in the former Yugoslavia republic.

Over the years its numbers were gradually halved, and at a meeting in Toronto in September, NATO defence ministers considered a further cut in forces over the coming winter months to 19,000 men and women.

## Clock ticks for global warming negotiators

BONN, Nov 5: Countries that signed up to the Kyoto Protocol on global warming today left themselves a year to turn their ambitious pact into a workable deal or see it condemned as a wasteful exercise in hot air, reports AFP.

The 11-day marathon of 166 signatories to the UN accord included three days of talks among environment ministers, who pledged a renewed political commitment to the process they launched two years ago.

Although thorny technical questions remained ungrasped, delegates spoke optimistically of a fresh spirit that had ended two years of frustrating debate.

'We have made significant progress across the full spectrum,' said US Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Frank Loy. 'Here, we began the hard substantive job of actually assembling the very nuts and bolts.'

A final decision-making meeting on the Protocol's machinery is due to take place in The Hague from November 13-24 2000.

But real bargaining time will be much shorter, given the US presidential and Congressional elections -- a political icefield that American negot