

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 Arham-ul-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, MBBS, 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 Shaha 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, Paltan Crossing, DU. Time: 4 pm.

Reception: BADG 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 Sangsod has organised a discussion meeting on 'Military coup in Pakistan: A threat to Democracy in the Sub-continent'. Hassanul Haq Inu, ABM Musa, Ajoy Roy, Prof Syed Monjurul Islam and Raoshan 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 Sarmilon' (Reunion). Chief guest: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Kader Khan. A Lokonattya 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 Kulum Abul Bashir 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: 7 pm.

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 Sathkira.

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	90	85
Rajshahi	31.0	22.4	79	96
Khulna	32.0	23.4	80	83
Barisal	32.2	23.5	80	77
Sylhet	32.5	21.4	80	77
Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.4	80	77

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 Bangladesh 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 GB 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 Secretary General Mahbubuddin Chowdhury in the chair.

They also stressed the need for bolstering relations between Bangladesh and UNESCO, said a press release.

Philip Malgras and Lionel Chaty, consultants in public sector, IDRH, France spoke at the seminar.

The two French experts spoke on management of top level managerial staff in private corporations, current transformations in civil services in Europe, observations and problems encountered in the management of top level managerial staff in the French Civil Service, and paths for progress.

The seminar was attended by professionals from Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), Public Administration Reform Commission (PARC), Bangladesh Public Service Commission, DESA, Bangladesh Railway Ministries, Bangladesh Tea Board, Rajuk BRDB, BTMC, and other organisations.

Anniversary of death of Maj Gen Khaled Mosharraf tomorrow

The 24th death anniversary of Shaheed Major General Khaled Mosharraf, Bir 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 *mahfil* 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 Gohar Mir Miah will be held on Syed Bari of Chatkhil under Noakhali district, reports BSS.

Peerjada Hazrat 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 Hal of Chatkhil will preside.

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

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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 Oct. 10. 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, experts said.

However, WHO estimates that the cumulative number of HIV/AIDS cases in Bangladesh is actually higher than these figures.

The first HIV/AIDS patient in Bangladesh was detected in 1990 and he died the same year of persistent diarrhoea. He was a seafarer. His wife was also tested positive for HIV antibody, but fortunately his two children tested negative.

It was 1981 when AIDS rocked the world with the news that American film star Rock Hudson was infected with a virus of HIV, the causative agent for the AIDS.

No cure is yet known and no vaccine is available for AIDS. According to UNAIDS, a joint United Nations Programme on

HIV/AIDS, around 16,000 individuals were globally infected with HIV every day in 1998.

Many people with HIV or AIDS have no access to medication, even to relieve their pain and sufferings, more than 12 million adults and children have already lost their lives due to this disease worldwide.

According to UNAIDS estimation, adults and children infected with HIV/AIDS as of end of 1998 in Sub-Saharan Africa are 22.5 million while the same in South East Asia is 6.7 million, which is the second largest affected area in the world.

India, where more than four million people have already been infected with HIV/AIDS, has the largest number of infected individual in any single country in the world.

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.

These neighboring countries, like Thailand, Myanmar, India, and Cambodia constitute the Asian epicentre for HIV/AIDS epidemic, WHO 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, rickshawpullers, truck drivers and foreigners.

Around 74,000 workers migrate out every year from Bangladesh, 50 per cent of all youth Bangladesh have premarital 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, quoted the survey as of the end of 1998, and said that 20.7 per cent STDs patients were found syphilis positive in Chittagong, 19 per cent in Dhaka, 12.34 per cent in Sylhet and 4.74 per cent in Rajshahi.

Among the STD patients, the floating sex workers are the highest infected with syphilis positive which is 56.86 per cent, followed by 48.52 per cent among brothel-based sex workers, 18 per cent among professional blood donors (BPD), STDs due to men's sex with men (MSM) or homosexuals are also on the increase, it was said.

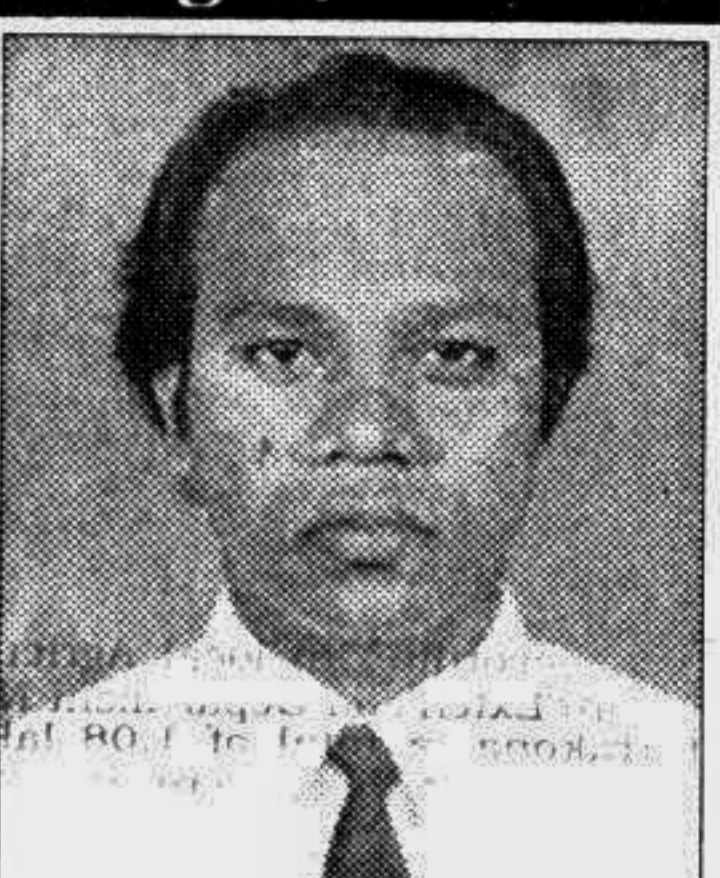
In another survey of sero-prevalence and knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP), about AIDS and STDs among long distance truck drivers (LTD), first of its type in the country in August 1997 by Dr Pravat Chandra Barua, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Epidemiology, Child and Mother Health Institute, Matuail, Dhaka, found that the majority of the LTD, 87 per cent did not know that the use of condoms during the sexual activities could prevent the transmission of and acquisition of AIDS and STDs.

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

Congratulations



Sheikh Md Mizanur Rahman has stood First Class First in the BSc (Hons) in Computer Science under National University 1997 exam held in 1999, says a press release.

He is the son of Md Mosad Ali Sheikh of village Durgapur of Kumarkhali thana in Kushtia.

Mizanur wants to go abroad to pursue higher studies in Computer Science.

The Department of Botany, Institute of Life Science of Jahangirnagar University has conferred PhD degree upon Ruhul Qudus, says a press release.

Ruhul was awarded the PhD for his thesis on 'Integrated Pest Management Approaches in Local Variety of Rice'.

He is the son of Alhaj Nurul Huda and Amina Begum of Eidgah residential area of Dairajpur. At present he is working as the Regional Business Manager of Novartis Crop Protection Region Asia-Pacific and Hong Kong.

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 Twentieth Century and Literary Works of S Wazir Ali'.

He is the son of M Amir Ali and Monowara Begum of Magura.

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



Air Force Chief Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed handing over the Inter-base Flight Safety Trophy for the year 1998 to BAF Base Zahurul Haque at the Command Safety Seminar of the Bangladesh Air Force at the airforce headquarters at Dhaka Cantonment on Thursday.

—ISPR photo

November 17 'is the target on one of the issues that he surely is involved in, and that is loan defaulting or income tax evasion... these charges will shortly be there'.

Asked if that meant that Sharif would be charged with loan defaulting and tax evasion, he added: 'Surely he is involved in these things'.

Musharraf said that he would take action against 'the selected top cream' of a list being compiled in readiness for November 17.

'We (will) initiate formal inquiries and maybe put them in custody... we do not want them to escape at all... so therefore if we think anyone will leave the country we will have to do something about it'.

The general said the army would also be held accountable as it was part of the same drive against corruption.

Sharif has been under house arrest since the military coup on October 12, and Musharraf agreed it was time to make a decision on his future.

'The legal process is on,' he added. 'I do understand it's taking a little bit of time because the issue is very complex'.

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