

News

● What's on today . . . ●

Seminar: Allama Iqbal Sangsad will hold a seminar "Iqbal's Thoughts on Pan Islamism" to celebrate the 122nd birth anniversary of the poet. Venue: Hotel Sundarban. Time: 5:00 pm.

Premiere: Moshedul Islam's *Brishti* will be premiered. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9. Time: 7:15 pm.

..... and tomorrow

BCPS lecture: Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons will hold two lectures on "Benign breast diseases" and "Quality assurance in undergraduate medical education and its organisational framework." Venue: BCPS auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 11:00 am and 12:10 pm.

Weather

Night temperature may rise

Weather may remain mainly dry over the country in next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may rise slightly across the country during the period, according to the Met Office.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Hatia and the lowest 18.4 degrees at Sathkira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:15 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:09 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature			Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min	Morning	
Dhaka	32.4	20.7	69	77
Chittagong	32.0	22.6	80	75
Rajshahi	31.6	19.6	80	77
Khulna	33.0	21.4	78	72
Barisal	32.4	21.0	78	86
Sylhet	31.8	21.5	77	77
Cox's Bazar	32.3	23.0	73	70

HERE and THERE

Chartered Accountancy Chhatria Parishad

The silver jubilee and reunion '99 of Bangladesh Chartered Accountancy Chhatria Parishad was celebrated at a discussion programme at Engineers Institution auditorium recently, says a press release.

Deputy Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Abdul Hamid was the chief guest at the programme.

The day's programmes also included blood donation and cultural programmes.

Zia Shishu Academy

Zia Shishu Academy announced its Kamal Kuri Top Ten '99 awards on occasion of National Solidarity Day, says a press release.

The recipients of the different prizes are Begum Mobina Khatoon (Education); Helena Khan (Literature); Khalid Hussain (Music); Rowshan Jamil (Acting); Rahi Khanam Jhunu (Dance); Hurun-ur-Rashid Khan Munu, MP (Social Service); Abdul Hai Sarkar (Industrialisation); Kazi Siraj (Journalism); Dr Mir N Anwar (Medicine) and Lutuf Nahar (Ideal Mother).

The prizes will be distributed among the recipients on January 19, 2000, the release added.

Daulatpur Thana Kalyan Samity

The annual general meeting of Daulatpur Thana Kalyan Samity (Dist Manikganj) was held on Friday at 4:00 pm at National Sports Council auditorium, says a press release.

Industrialist, social worker and member of the parliament Haroon-ur-Rashid Khan Moonni were present as the chief guest. Director of the National Cardiovascular (Heart) Disease Institute and President of the Association Prof Dr MA Zaman presided over the function.

The overall activities of the organisation during the last year was reviewed and programmes of the association of the current year was also discussed at the function.

Moorni in his inaugural speech urged all members of the association to come forward with a positive outlook to extend their programme to common people of Daulatpur Thana. He urged upon all to work hard and contribute to the growth and overall improvement of the association.

A cultural programme also held.

'Bone Collector' tops US box office

LOS ANGELES, Nov 8 : "The Bone Collector," a thriller starring Denzel Washington and Angelina Jolie, topped the US box office during its weekend debut, with receipts totalling some 17.2 million dollars, reports AFP.

Exhibitor Relations announced the industry figures Sunday, which nudged the romantic comedy "The Bachelor" in number two position, with earnings of 8.0 million dollars.

In third place was followed by "House on Haunted Hill" with 7.8 million dollars in receipts. That film was the top earner during Halloween weekend, raking in 15.9 million dollars.

Arafat to meet Blair, sign gas deal

LONDON, Nov 8 : Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is expected to arrive Tuesday in London for a two-day visit including talks with Prime Minister Tony Blair and the signing of a gas exploration deal, reports AFP.

His talks Tuesday with Blair will focus on the current state of the Middle East peace process, the Palestinian diplomatic delegation here said.

Before that, he is due to sign an off-shore exploration contract with the British firm BG. No other details on the deal were immediately available.

On Wednesday, Arafat will meet former premier John Major and the leader of the opposition Conservative Party, William Hague.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook met Arafat last month during a visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Pope arrives in Georgia

TBILISI, Nov 8 : John Paul II arrived here today for a historic visit to Georgia, the first by a pope to an Orthodox Christian nation in the former Soviet Union, reports AFP.

He was greeted at Tbilisi's airport by President Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian Catholicos Ilia II and other top Georgian officials, as well as members from the country's 100,000-strong Roman Catholic community.

The pope made his way gingerly down his aircraft steps with the aid of a walking stick, as a wintry wind blew.

Georgian girls presented him with flowers and a military band played.

Muslims exhume 800 bodies this year in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Nov 8 : Muslim forensic teams have this year exhumed more than 800 bodies of mainly Muslim civilians believed to have been executed by Bosnian Serb forces in the 1992-95 war, an official said today, reports AFP.

The victims were exhumed from 40 mass graves and many individual sites at several locations in the Bosnian Serb entity, Republika Srpska, said Amor Masovic, head of the Commission for Missing People.

"Preliminary analysis showed that 99 percent of the victims, including more than 90 women and 16 children, were civilians killed in 1992," Masovic said.

President K.R. Narayanan, who left for Austria after meet-

Washington has no plan to intervene in Chechnya

BUCHAREST, Nov 8 : The United States is keeping a watchful eye on developments in Chechnya but has no plans to intervene, the highest ranking US military official said today, reports AFP.

"We are quite concerned about what is going on in Chechnya," General Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during an official visit to Bucharest.

"It is a concern dealt with by the Russian government," he added.

Shelton's comments were in response to a plea made Sunday by Chechen President Aslan

Maskhadov to US President Bill Clinton to put pressure on the Russian government, according to the Russian news agency Interfax.

The Chechen people hope that the US will use its influence as a defender of human rights," Maskhadov said.

Last month the Russian government launched an all-out offensive against Chechen rebels in the breakaway republic.

Shelton, who arrived here

Sunday, also applauded Romania's restructuring of its military.

"It is important that Romania pursue the defence reform allowing it to develop modern, flexible and NATO-compatible armed forces, which will have a major contribution to regional security," the general said.

Pak politician slams Russia for killings in Chechnya

LAHORE, Pakistan, Nov 8 : Pakistani cricket hero-turned politician Imran Khan today strongly condemned what he called "the genocide" of Muslims by Russian forces in Chechnya and urged the UN to take action to stop the bloodshed, reports AFP.

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Sharif wanted to jail my wife: Imran Khan

LAHORE, Pakistan, Nov 8 : Pakistani cricket hero-turned politician Imran Khan today said deposed Premier Nawaz Sharif wanted to pressure the judiciary to put his wife Jemima in jail.

"I did not have the confidence of the courts under Nawaz Sharif because I knew that he would put my wife and kids behind bars by pressuring the judiciary," Khan told AFP.

He flew back into Pakistan on Sunday with his wife Jemima, daughter of the late British-French tycoon James Goldsmith, and their two young sons.

Khan, who heads his Movement for Justice party, was a staunch opponent of Sharif who was ousted in a military coup by army chief General Pervez Musharraf on October 12.

The Sharif government had implicated Jemima in a case of smuggling hundreds of antique tiles in December last year.

She ended her 11-month ex-

ile after the ouster of the former premier who is now in army custody and being probed for bank loan defaults and tax evasion.

"I would take anything from these political rivals but my family should be spared," Khan said.

Jemima, who married the former cricket hero four years ago, has denied the accusation, and the couple claim the tiles were not antique and the case has been trumped up.

"I am confident that justice will be done now and the fabricated and politically motivated charges against my wife will be dismissed on merit," Khan said.

He vowed to take Pakistani customs department and archaeologists to court for "harassing my family for political gains."

"I am likely to come up for hearing in Lahore next month."

British MP blasts sanctions on Iraq as 'crime of century'

WASHINGTON

The United States and Britain were "trying to break this country because they want to install a slave government in Baghdad," but the Iraqi people with its ancient culture will never accept him, said.

Galloway and a team of volunteers arrived in Baghdad on Saturday at the end of a two-month trek on a red London double-decker bus, campaigning through several European and Arab countries for a lifting of sanctions.

The sanctions have remained in force ever since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which was rolled back seven months later in the Gulf War.

The London double-decker used for Galloway's campaign, a 1963 model, is to be left behind 15,000 km to reach Baghdad.

"We hope this will be a historical reminder, a museum of international solidarity," Galloway, who has been greeted as a hero in Baghdad, told Iraqi MPs.

Indian Church hails success of papal visit

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 : Indian Church leaders today hailed the visit of John Paul II as a great success, having laid the ground for inter-religious dialogue and reaffirmed the secular credentials of the government, reports AFP.

The pope was greeted at Tbilisi's airport by President Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian Catholicos Ilia II and other top Georgian officials, as well as members from the country's 100,000-strong Roman Catholic community.

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Pakistan to study implications of UN sanctions against Taliban

ISLAMABAD, Nov 8 : Pakistan's new foreign minister said today he would study the implications of the UN decision to impose sanctions against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban, reports AFP.

Abdus Sattar told reporters the government would "carefully" study the matter, but stopped short of saying it would abide by the sanctions.

The United Nations Security Council last month unanimously decided to impose sanctions on Afghanistan if the ruling Taliban militia did not end its indicated terrorist Osama bin Laden by November 14.

"We will have to see what

Pakistan can contribute to the realisation of the objectives," of the resolution, Sattar said.

Bin Laden, a Saudi-born multi-millionaire has been indicted in the US over the twin bombings of American embassies in East Africa on August 7, 1998 in which more than 200 people were killed.

The Taliban has refused US demands to expel bin Laden.

Sattar said as a sovereign state it was up to the Afghan government to deal with the bin Laden issue.

The US has urged Pakistan, considered a principal backer of the Taliban, to use its influence with the militia to per-

suade it to expel bin Laden.

The Taliban government, which controls about two-thirds of Afghanistan, has so far been recognised only by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The anti-Taliban alliance retains the Afghan UN seat.

"Pakistan desires peace and unity in war-ravaged Afghanistan," Sattar said.

"Ground realities recommend more intense dialogue and engagement with the Afghan government and observance of international norms by all including Afghanistan," he said.

Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf (2nd R) is welcomed to Turkey yesterday by Turkish Premier Bulent Ecevit — his first visit to a NATO member country as part of a tour of three Muslim states. The visit comes nearly a month after the October 12 coup.

— AFP photo

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