

What's on today....

Human chain programme: Sylhet Division Development Council has taken up a programme to form human chain marking the victory of their movement to save the trees of Osmani Udyan. Venue: Osmani Udyan. Time: 3 pm.
Art exhibition: A 10-day long art exhibition by Russian artist Konstantin Persidsky, a participant of the 9th Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh '99, will begin. Chief guest: President of Bangladesh-Russia Friendship Society, Justice KM Sobhan. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House No: 510, Road No: 7, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm.
Meeting: Bangladesh Women Journalists Forum will hold a meeting. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 4:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Daily Star award giving ceremony: The Daily Star has organised an award giving ceremony to honour the brilliant students who achieved outstanding results in O and A level examinations (June '98-June '99 session). Venue: Chartered Accountants' Building Auditorium (9th floor), 100, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 3 pm.
Artefacts exhibition: A 19-day long exhibition on artefacts recovered and collected from Mahastangarh will begin. Organiser: Archaeological Department, French Archaeological Mission, Alliance Française de Dhaka and Bangladesh National Museum. Venue: Temporary exhibition room of the National Museum, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the exhibition at the Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium of the museum. Time: 4 pm.
Musical soiree: Shadhona, A Centre for Advancement of Sub-continental Music will present classical music by Shipra Khan and her disciple Anrehr Ehamar Khan. Venue: Muktiyoddha Jagdhar. Time: 6:00 pm.
Memorial Lecture: Ajit Guha Memorial Council has organised the fourth Ajit Guha memorial lecture to mark his 30th death anniversary. Prof Sardar Fazlul Karim will deliver a lecture on 'Education, Student, Education System and State System'. Venue: VIP Lounge of National Press Club. Time: 4 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.
Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, according to Met Office.
The country's highest temperature 32.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Hatiya and the lowest 15.4 degree Celsius at Sathkira.
The sun sets in the capital today at 5.14 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.11 am.
Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:
City/Town Temperature Humidity in percentage
In Celsius Morning Evening
Dhaka 31.5 20.5 62 79
Chittagong 32.0 20.6 72 64
Rajshahi 30.6 16.8 58 77
Khulna 31.6 19.6 69 79
Barisal 31.5 20.6 78 88
Sylhet 31.2 20.8 95 69
Cox's Bazar 32.9 20.5 72 69

HERE and THERE

DUTA

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), in a statement yesterday, hailed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her dialogue proposal with the opposition to ease the prevailing political situation in the country, reports BSS.
Anarchic situation emerged out of the opposition called hartals has hindered the economic activities as well as educational atmosphere and made the normal life unbearable, said the statement.
The university teachers association called upon the opposition political parties to sit with the elected government to free the nation from such a situation.
Signatories to the statement include Prof Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, Prof Md Habibur Rahman, Prof Mohammad Mozumman, Prof RUM Aminur Rashid, Prof Md Mannan Chowdhury, Prof Md Hossain Mansur, Prof Anwar Hossain and Mrs Nilufar Nahar.

contribution of Zakat funds for their different social service projects including treatment of acid burn victims and vocational training for destitute women.
The meeting was followed by a raffle draw.

Sher-e-Bangla Hall of BUET

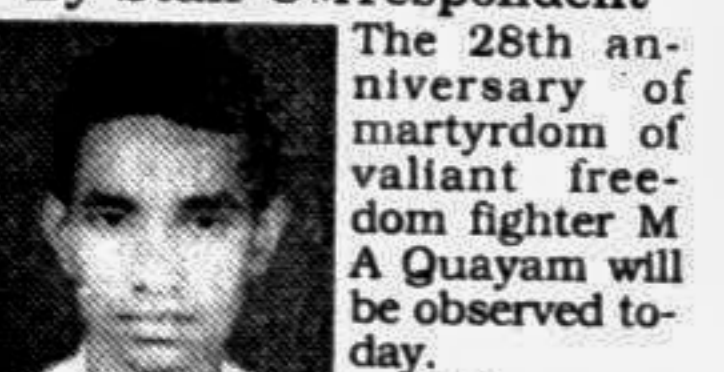
Students of Sher-e-Bangla Hall of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) at a meeting have decided to link more than 40 personal computers under a local area network (LAN) set up.
Our network members will share the total cost of LAN set up and they have already agreed to contribute Taka 1,500 each for this endeavour, an executive of Sher-e-Bangla Hall Computer Society told BSS yesterday.
He said the society will request BUET authorities to provide links to the information super highway through internet after completion of the LAN set up.
The society will conduct an orientation sessions on net-working in the common room of the hall at 10 pm today.
It will extend educational help to all bright programmers to cope with the challenges of the coming millennium, he added.

Zonta Club-IV

Zonta Club IV of Dhaka celebrated the 80th founding anniversary of Zonta International during their regular general meeting recently, says a press release.
At the meeting, the club took up various activities including

Death anniversary

By Staff Correspondent
The 28th anniversary of martyrdom of valiant freedom fighter M A Quayam will be observed today.
Quayam, a student of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University and resident of village Haimchar of Chandpur district was killed in a confrontation with the Pakistan occupation army at Betyapara of Comilla district on the day in 1971.
A milad mahfil will be organised after Asr prayers today at 319, Gulbagh (near Gulbagh Jam-e-Mosque), residence of Quayam's younger brother.



Call to pray for C R Dutt
By Staff Correspondent
Monisha Dutt, wife of freedom fighter and commander of sector-4 C R Dutt, in a statement yesterday urged people of all walks of life to pray for her ailing husband.
C R Dutt has been in post-operative Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Combined Military Hospital (CMH) after a cardiac by-pass surgery.
Mahanagar Sarbojoni Pujya Committee and Bangladesh Pujya Udayan Parishad also urged all, irrespective of religion, to pray for immediate recovery of C R Dutt.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Mostafa Abdul Hal Al-Azad, the former secretary of Bangladesh Tea Association, will be held Friday after Magreb prayers at his residence 'Korol' apartment-103, house-3, road-7, Gulshan-1 (Opposite to Sajna Restaurant), says a press release.



Anniversary of death of Major Ghani today

The 42nd death anniversary of Major A Ghani, the founder of The East Bengal Regiment, will be observed today. On this day in 1957 this valiant son of the soil popularly known as 'Tiger Ghani' whose memorable deeds of valour are recounted every day with great respect and honour died, says a press release.



Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out a procession on DU campus yesterday in observance of Shaheed Noor Hossain Day. -Star photo

Zillur tells seminar on 'drainage system'

Effective measures taken to remove waterlogging in city

Speakers at a seminar yesterday opined that the drainage system of Dhaka city has become 'vulnerable' following onrush of excessive population, filling of natural ditches, un-planned infrastructural development and indiscriminate emergence of housing societies in the low lands, reports BSS.
The speakers said this at a seminar on 'Drainage system of Dhaka city: Its present condition, problems and remedies' held at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), LGRD and Cooperatives Min-

ister Zillur Rahman addressing the seminar as the chief guest said, despite limitation of resources, the government has taken up effective and pragmatic measures to cope with the curse of water logging in Dhaka city.
'There are already some tremendous achievements in the sector,' he said, referring to the successful solution of long standing water logging in Shantinagar in the city.
Dr Zahir Chowdhury of BUET, Kazi Mohammad Shish, chief engineer, Dhaka WASA,

Mohammad Kadiruzzaman, chief engineer of DPHE and IEB general secretary Engineer ANH Akhter Hossain spoke on the occasion while Engineer Kazi Ali Azam chaired it.
The seminar recommended 20-point working plan for the development of the sewerage system in the capital Dhaka, now being overburdened by more than 10 million people. The recommendations include 'taking of effective measures to implement the city master plan on an urgent basis, freeing the natural and artificial ditches from illegal occupants, ban on production of polythene bag and community participation to maintain the sewerage system in the city.
Zillur Rahman also mentioned other steps and programmes taken by the government for freeing the capital city from water logging and said the work of Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project under FAP is nearer to completion. 'Development of Dholaikhal and Jirani Khal under Drainage Improvement Project of Old Dhaka is progressing fast,' he said, adding that setting up of pump stations in the mouth of the river Buriganga was going on a full swing.
Besides, steps have been taken to launch the survey of Dhaka Flood Protection Embankment cum Bypass Road Integrated Multipurpose Project, he said and added when implemented the people of the eastern part of the city would get relief from water logging and flood together with the western side.
He also said a master plan for the greater Dhaka and its drainage system has been formulated under FAP-4 project. This project, he said, would include drainage system of Dhaka city, DND area of Narayanganj, Keraniganj, Tongi and Savar, he added.



President of Zonta club IV of Dhaka, Shamsy Chowdhury cutting a cake to celebrate the 80th founding anniversary of Zonta International at a local hotel recently.

Obituary

Momtaz Begum, mother of freedom fighter late Imtiaz-uddin Ahmed (Sajjad), died on Saturday at Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital. She was 70, says a press release.
A milad mahfil will be held at her village residence at Chinnaduli under Kapasia thana of Gazipur district tomorrow at 4:00 pm.

Alhaj Abdul Gafur, an eminent social worker of the Mirpur area, died at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases on Monday night. He was 70, reports BSS.
He left behind his wife, two sons, three daughters, relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.
Gafur was buried at the martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur on Tuesday afternoon.
A milad mahfil will be held at his 579 Sen Para Parbota residence after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Dr Md Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Father of Md Jasim Uddin Akond, FCMA, Chairman of Dhaka Branch Council of ICMAB died on Sunday at 2.15 pm at his residence in Mahishar, village PS Bhederganj, Shariatpur District. He was 67, says a press release.
He left behind his wife, three sons, seven daughters and a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death. He was a renowned veterinary doctor.
A Milad Mahfil will be held on Friday at his residence in village Mahishar of Shariatpur district after Juma prayers.

Professor Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Chairman of the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Command Council will inaugurate the function in the morning on the day where professor Mozaffar Ahmed will be present as the chief guest. Comrade Munzurul Ahsan, president of National Awami Party and Commander (Rtd) Abdur Rouf, director of NAP-CB-Chatra Union-guerilla group during the Liberation War will be present as special guest at the programme.

Indian goods seized at Sirajganj
From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Nov 10: Police, a secret information, today stopped a Dhaka-bound bus and recovered 181 pieces of Indian Sares and 75 bottles of phen-sidyl worth Tk 50,000 from it.
The bus was coming from Chapainawabganj. Two men Alam Hussain, 28, and Yusuf Ali, 28 of Godagari under Rajshahi district were arrested in this connection.
A case has been lodged with Bangabandhu Setu west police station.

Muktijoddha Milon Mela at Ctg tomorrow
From CU Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Nov 10: Muktiyoddha Milon Mela (gathering of the freedom fighters) will be held at the Chittagong Muslim Hall auditorium at 9 am on November 12.
National Awami Party (NAP) Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Guerilla groups of Liberation War and Muktiyoddha Samonnya Parishad (Freedom Fighters' Co-ordination Council) have jointly organised the programme.
Professor Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Chairman of the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Command Council will inaugurate the function in the morning on the day where professor Mozaffar Ahmed will be present as the chief guest. Comrade Munzurul Ahsan, president of National Awami Party and Commander (Rtd) Abdur Rouf, director of NAP-CB-Chatra Union-guerilla group during the Liberation War will be present as special guest at the programme.

20 hurt in Chuadanga bus accident
CHUADANGA, Nov 10: All 30 passengers of a Chuadanga bound minibus from Darsana were injured when it turned turtle into a road side ditch near the village Kushaghaha on Chuadanga-Darsana road, four miles from Chuadanga at about 8:30 am today, reports BSS.
According to eyewitnesses, the ill-fated minibus was struck by a running truck from the back side. As a result, the minibus fell into the road side ditch.
Some ten passengers of the minibus were taken to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital in a critically injured condition.
The truck driver managed to flee away after hitting the minibus.
Canadian envoy calls on Ershad
Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh David D Preston made a courtesy call on Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad at his Bairdihara office yesterday, reports UNB.
During the meeting, they discussed bilateral and international issues of common concern.
Hunger Project president due today
Joan Holmes, President of The Hunger Project, will arrive in the city today on a five day learning mission to Bangladesh, says a press release.
Holmes, a leading development thinker, has galvanized a worldwide movement against hunger and poverty.
Holmes will attend on Saturday the annual reunion of the Volunteer-Animators — a group of 'new generation of freedom fighters' who have taken the stand to create a self-reliant future for Bangladesh. Over 1,000 animators, trained by The Hunger Project, are expected to attend the reunion.
Holmes will also participate in a meeting of the women leaders of the Hunger Project to be held on Sunday. A group of nearly 100 women volunteers from all over the country will attend the meeting.
During her stay in Bangladesh, Holmes is likely to meet many distinguished Bangladeshis from both government and the voluntary sectors to share ideas for eradicating hunger and poverty in the country.



DCCI President MH Rahman (3rd-R) handed over a cheque of yearly donation to the general secretary Prof Bashira Mannan, (4th-R) of Firoza Bari Crippled Children Hospital for maintenance of DCCI Ward of the hospital yesterday. The hospital operates under the Bangladesh Council for Children Welfare (BCCW). Among others DCCI Vice President Nasir Hossain (2nd-R) was also present in the occasion.

Civil society leaders

From page 12
pation, in his keynote address to the civil society representatives.
For the first time people themselves are at the centre of both the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting agenda and of the Commonwealth NGO Forum, said a statement from the Forum, supported by Commonwealth Foundation, an intergovernmental body with a mandate to work in the non-government sector.
The Forum focussed on a major Foundation project called 'Civil Society in the New Millennium' which resulted in a report titled 'Citizens and Governance: Civil Society in the New Millennium'.
Presenting a plan of action, it called on the summitters and the international community 'to work with the civil society and the private sector to engage in the highest levels of public accountability and ethics as well as full transparency in all their activities'.
It also recommended 'a joint enterprise between elected governments, their citizens and their organisations'.
'Governance therefore entails a meaningful partnership between the state, government and private sector, in which the state shares with civil society the responsibility for policy-making and implementation'.
The recommendations will be presented to the heads of government.
'We recognise that these demands embody a new consensus and a new model of development, requiring serious changes in perspectives and values, and the need to confront powerful existing forces.'
A Forum communiqué said.
The civil society leaders also tried to define 'a good society' and the role of NGOs and the media in its promotion, an issue being highlighted by the Foundation and Commonwealth Press Union (CPU).
In a CPU-sponsored symposium, under way, Commonwealth editors decried proposed new laws threatening media in countries — from Sri Lanka to Sierra Leone — and discussed myriad issues relating to media freedom in many different circumstances.
In a country where a woman is raped every 26 seconds, 'Violence against Women: The Impact of Reproductive Health' will be the theme of another international conference scheduled for Thursday.
On the same day, another international gathering of experts will deal with 'Human Settlement Priorities', which will be supported by a number of Commonwealth organisations.
The Commonwealth People's Centre in this city is hosting exhibitions which will highlight the people-oriented issues. Among the VIP visitors to the show will be Queen Elizabeth II, the head of the Commonwealth.

Corporate chiefs and trade officials have also arrived in South Africa for a two-day meeting starting tomorrow.
In Johannesburg, the Commonwealth Business Forum will discuss 'trade and investment, where among others Farooq Sobhan — who is hoping to succeed Chief Anyaaku — will speak.
The Commonwealth Youth Forum is on in Durban. The one on children is in Johannesburg.
'There are some two dozens of fringe events that are taking place or have closed,' said a South African official.
Another major report called 'Reinventing the Commonwealth', which is scheduled for launch on Friday, looks at how the Commonwealth is launching itself into the 21st century.

Traffic jam

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tration of traffic. Hundreds of rickshaws, trucks and push-carts carrying supplies were stranded on the narrow lanes.
Traffic sergeants had a hard time managing the messy traffic.
One sergeant taking time out from his duty at Mohakhali rail crossing said, 'I have seen many traffic congestion, but not like today's.'
A taxi passenger said, 'Usually it takes 45 minutes from Mohakhali to reach my office at Faribagh, but today it took more than one and a half hours.'

Another office-goer on a motorcycle said, 'Today's traffic jam is the worst I have ever seen. I have already spent half an hour here (in between Bangla Motor and Hotel Sheraton)'.
Meanwhile, there was a mad for tickets at Gabtali, Sayedabad and Mohakhali terminals.
Authorities at the terminals said thousands of passengers bought tickets today. Some even bought tickets in advance for Thursday, Friday and Saturday fearing hartal on Sunday.

Dialogue

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pressed the hope that the latter would respond to the offer to resolve all problems to consolidate democracy and continue the pace of development in the country', a press release issued after the meeting said late last night.
It also 'criticised strongly the negative attitude of the leader of the opposition spurning the offer of the dialogue by the Prime Minister'. It expressed the 'hope that good sense will prevail upon her and she would respond to the offer of talks. If she does not do so and continue with negative activities, she will have to answer to the people some day,' the release added.

Power Grid Company

From page 1
PDB's only sector where system loss is the lowest (around 4 per cent). The system loss in power transmission is entirely due to technical reasons, the sources said.
PDB had long been reluctant to create a separate transmission company on the ground that in the past, creation of DESA under World Bank pressure 'proved totally counter-productive', sources said. 'However, PDB finally surrendered to the ADB pressure and agreed to hand over its assets in two distribution areas', one source in PDB said.
PDB will transfer its Hasnabad grid sub-station and 40 km transmission line to PGB in June next year.
'After Hasnabad, there will be no more handover of transmission system to PGB without seeing the benefits', the source said.
There are about 3500 km power transmission lines in the country, of which PDB owns 3000 km and DESA 500 km. PDB has 84 sub-stations.
PDB's own transmission rate is only 11 poisha per unit. But for PGB, the government has fixed a rate at 18 poisha. Terming the pricing as 'irrational', the source said, 'The transmission system was PDB's asset and the rate was cheaper under PDB's supervision.
'There's no justification why PDB should bear the loss for the enhanced price. Reforms are usually introduced to reduce cost. But here in Bangladesh, reforms are made to increase cost and ultimately burden the people.'
Though a subsidiary of PDB, the salary structure for PGB employees is five/ six times higher than that for PDB employees. This has also created dissatisfaction among PDB employees and officials, they said.
The Energy Ministry is also processing a proposal to exempt PGB from paying income tax now. 'If the Finance Ministry refuses to give this facility to PGB, the Energy Ministry will once again 'restructure' the transmission tariff in favour of the company', the source said.
It is expected that the present system would earn PGB Tk 200.40 lakh a month. Of this, PDB will pay Tk 196.5 lakh, DESA 3.12 lakh and the Rural Electrification Board Tk 0.78 lakh.
PDB will also pay Tk. 159.5 lakh to PGB for purchase of transportation and testing equipment a monthly bill of Tk 9.03 lakh for maintenance and repair and make an one-time payment of Tk 95 lakh for the same purpose.

One held with arms in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Nov 10: Police arrested a man along with four sophisticated firearms and ammunition from the city's Reazuddin Bazar today, reports UNB.
On suspicion, police followed three men heading towards the bazar at noon and caught one of them, Mohammad Selim, 24, along with the arms, carrying in a bag. The other two fled the scene.
Police said the recovered arms and ammunition were one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and two LGs and 36 rounds of bullet.

One sentenced to 18 years RI in Magura

MAGURA, Nov 10: A court here today sentenced a youth to 18 years' rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Tk 12,000 for killing a man, reports UNB.
Shahinur Rahman, 30 of Boraldah village of Sreepur thana was awarded the punishment for killing Sochin-dranath Saha at his shop at Radhanagar Bazar in the same thana at night on July 22, 1998.

HTDB takes up projects for development of CHT

BANDARBAN, Nov 10: The government has taken up three special projects including land distribution and rehabilitation for the tribals and non tribals of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) to develop their socio-economic condition, reports BSS.
The projects will be implemented by the Hill Tracts Development Board (HTDB).
Eight thousand landless and marginal farmers including 1500 women will be rehabilitated under these projects. In this connection 19,500 acres of hilly land will be allotted for rubber plantation.
Work on the projects, duration of which is expected to be 3 to 5 years, will begin in December at a cost of Tk 129 crore and 57 thousand.
Executive Engineer of the CHT Development Board said that after signing of the peace accord, situation in the Hill Tracts areas has improved.
According to him, our of the total area of 13,295 square kilometres, only 5 per cent land is cultivable. 2699 square km (20 per cent) land is suitable for horticulture. 9,977 square km (75 per cent) of land for reserve forest and 665 square km (5 per cent) of land is suitable for cultivation of crops.
Fertility of land is decreasing because of unplanned cultivation, lack of watershed management and land erosion. Hilly canals are also being filled up.
On the basis of classification and fertility of the hilly land, the government and the HTDB are giving more importance to horticulture.
As security measures have been ensured, the government has taken initiatives to increase urban facilities for the neglected families there. The three projects will be implemented for agriculture and socio-economic development.

CMP rounds up 32 on various charges

CHITTAGONG, Nov 10: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) rounded up 32 miscreants on various charges from different areas of the city during past 24 hours ending six pm today, reports BSS.
Kotwali police arrested Muhammad Selim, 24, from Station Road and recovered from his bag a country made rifle, one single barrel gun, two country made light guns and 17 cartridges. Muhammad Selim is member of a criminals group, police said.
Doublemooring police arrested Abdul Baten, 26, from Jhawtala area and recovered from his possession one country made light gun and two cartridges.
Different police stations of CMP arrested 30 others on various charges including violation of CMP Act, avoiding arrest and terrorism.

Training course for female executives begin in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Nov 10: A ten-day training course on management development for women executives began at the regional Public Administration Training Centre here yesterday, reports BSS.
The course is being jointly organised by Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre and the United Nations Fund for the Pacific and Asia under 'Advocacy on Reproductive Health and Gender Issues Through the Ministry of Establishment' project.
Chittagong Divisional Commissioner ASM Moidul Islam inaugurated the course at a function which was presided over by Director of Chittagong Regional Public Administration Training Centre Mohammad Didarul Alam.
Thirty female executives are taking part in the course.



Members of Increased Fee Resistance Council of Jahangirnagar University brought out a procession on the JU campus yesterday to demand immediate reopening of the university. -Star photo