

What's on today....

Concluding ceremony: The concluding ceremony of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Notre Dame College will be held. Chief guest: Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal. Special guest: Father William Dorwart, CSC, Provincial, Indiana, Congregation of Holy Cross Priest Society. Rev Micheal Rozario, archbishop of Dhaka and chairman of the college governing body will preside over the ceremony. Venue: College campus. Time: 3.45 pm.

Meeting: Z.H. Sikder Cardiac Care and Research Centre will hold a clinical meeting on 'Early Management of Acute Myocardial Infarction'. Venue: Conference hall of centre at Monica Estate, West Dhanmondi. Time: 9:00 am.

Children's Day: The High Commission of India organises a variety of activities for children on the occasion of Children's Day, celebrated on the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Venue: India International School premises at Dhanmondi, Road No 2. Time: 9:30 am.

Inauguration: The weekend course in Anesthesiology, Part I, will be inaugurated. Organiser: Anesthesiology dept of BSMMU. Venue: Samad Seminar Room of BSMMU. Time: 3:00 pm.

Memorial meeting: A meeting will be held in memory of former IOJ Bangladesh Group vice-president, journalist and writer Mir Nurul Islam. Organiser: Bikolpo Gonomayom. Venue: Muktiuddho Jadugar. Time: 3:30 pm.

Education Programme: The 2nd Continuing Professional Education Programme '99 (CPE/99) on 'MRP, MRP-II and Enterprise Resource Planning' and 'E-commerce, Internet and Groupware Applications' begins. Venue: Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) auditorium. Time: 4:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Film Festival: Indian High Commission begins a Children Film Festival on occasion of Children's Day. Morshedul Islam's *Dipu Number Two* will be screened. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre auditorium. Time: 5:00 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Dry weather is likely to continue 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 yesterday at 32.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest 14.0 degree Celsius at Satkhira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.14 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.12 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	30.8	18.2	62	81
Chittagong	32.0	20.5	77	76
Rajshahi	29.6	17.8	63	81
Khulna	30.5	17.6	71	74
Barisal	30.6	17.5	74	81
Sylhet	30.9	19.4	72	72
Cox's Bazar	31.8	22.0	66	69

HERE and THERE

CU

From CU Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 12: Chittagong University (CU) authorities submitted some recommendations to overcome session jam and ensure smooth running of academic activities smoothly.

At a meeting yesterday of Vice-Chancellor, Pro-vice-chancellor, deans and chairmen of all departments submitted the recommendations including publishing result of ex-

aminations with in a span of three months after the exams CU VC Professor Abdul Mannan was in the chair.

Among the other recommendations were that all departments have to complete their academic sessions in ten months, all departments have to start classes of the following year within one week of completing examination and that the examination gap between two examinations can be a maximum of four days.

New HYV of paddy invented

MYMENSINGH, Nov 12: Researchers of Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) have invented a new high yielding variety of paddy, 'Iratom-24', reports UNB.

The BINA scientists have invented the new HYV of paddy by bringing a genetic change in its previous Irti-8 paddy, according to a BINA press release.

It said the new HYV paddy, approved by the National Seeds Board, can be cultivated in Boro and Aus seasons.

As the height of Iratom-24 plants would be smaller (75cm-80cm) in size and have more clusters than other varieties, it has little or no chance to lie down on the paddy field before harvest and come under pest attack, the researchers said.

If the weather does a favour, 6-6.5 tons of paddy can be produced on one hectare of land in Boro season while 3.5-4 tons in Aus seasons.

The life-span of the paddy in Boro season is said to be 150-160 days on an average while 130-135 days in Aus season.

"Due to its shorter life-span, the paddy can be harvested before flooding and it can be cultivated in low-lying areas, including dry canals," the release added.

Seedbeds for Iratom-24 paddy have to be prepared in between December 4 and January 15 in Boro season while April 8 to May 8 in Aus season. Its seedlings can be transplanted within 3-5 weeks. The cultivation method of the paddy is similar to other HYV paddies.

Mammi murder

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Mammi's elder brother Advocate BM Hussain, two sisters - in-law and one of her friends, Nasim, were also interrogated by police today.

The victim's relatives told the investigators that Mammi used to be physically assaulted often by her mother-in-law and sister-in-law, police said.

As pregnant Mammi was tortured, she also suffered from 'terrible bleeding', they alleged. Even one month before her death, she was taken to a doctor for the bleeding problem, they alleged.

Ripon had taken Tk 1, 80,000 as dowry from his in-laws who also gave him furniture, a television and a refrigerator. He was pressing for Tk 20,000 from his wife's family, police said quoting their findings.

Number of malaria patients on rise in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Nov 12: The number of malaria patients is increasing in the district, reports BSS.

Hospital sources said more than 30 per cent of the patients at different hospitals in the district have been suffering from the disease.

Most of the patients do not come to hospitals timely as they are ignorant about the mode of treatment of the disease.

Although malaria is a very common disease now a days but the death rate is very high in the region which creates panic among the people every year.

The villagers when attacked with malaria do not get proper treatment timely due to lack of doctors and other medical facilities.

Mosquito net is processed with delta metrin, a kind of medicine, by a special method under ITBN programme which works for six months.

According to reports available here, June-July and October-November are the vulnerable months as mosquito predominate the region alarmingly.

Doctors working in the region, urged the people to keep the premises of their houses clean.

The NGOs working here can take comprehensive programme like ITBN to fight against the deadly disease, malaria, a local social worker said.

Cadet College

From page 1

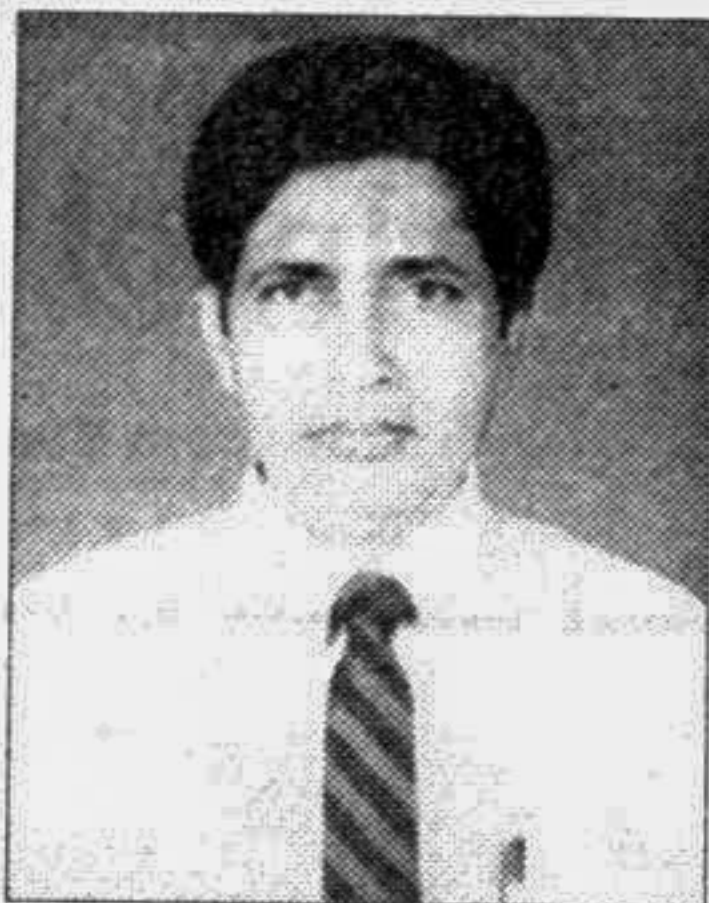
days back, some senior teachers objected when the PT instructor engaged the boys in pulling the roller.

But the instructor did not care, they claimed.

Iqbal used to write diary. He narrated some things done by the PT instructor just on the previous day, the sources claimed. Even, he also wrote about roller-pulling that day in the form of a poem.

The diary has been taken by the college authorities. An official, when asked this afternoon, said he heard about it.

Sources alleged that just after the incident, the brain came out of Iqbal's head. The PT instructor took and threw it to a nearby drain. But soon after, he collected it and kept it on the grass and put a cover on it. Others saw the whole incident.



Congratulations

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 12: Rajshahi University has conferred PhD on Md. Moksud Ali, a scientific research officer of Bangladesh Science and Industry Research Laboratory, Rajshahi recently.

He conducted research on "Isolation, purification, characterisation and structure function relationship of lipases from different varieties of rice bran" under Human Resource Development Project of Bangladesh Science and Industry Research Council.

Dr Nurul Absar, Professor of Biochemistry Department of Rajshahi University was the supervisor of the research work of Moksud Ali.



Obituary

Hasna Hena Qadir, wife of late Shaheed Lt Col Abdul Qadir, died of respiratory problems at the Combined Military Hospital in the city last morning. She was 65, reports UNB.

She left behind two sons and one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Mother of AFP Dhaka Bureau Special Correspondent Nadim Qadir, Hasna Hena was laid to rest at Banani Army Graveyard after Namaz-e-Janaza at Gulshan central Mosque after Juma prayers yesterday.

Science and Technology Minister Mohammad Noor Uddin Kha, Chief of Army Staff Maj General Mostafizur Rahman, high army officials, and a large number of journalists and elite attended the funeral.

Founder member of Ekatattur Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, late Hasna Hena was admitted to CMH on Wednesday with respiratory complication. Her two lungs were damaged completely.

Qulhavan of Hasna Hena will be held at her residence Rose Valley, House-14, Road-6, at Gulshan-1 on Monday.

Prajanno Ekatattur, Nirmul Committee and Muktiuddha Smriti Sangrakhyen Kendra placed wreaths at her graveyard as mark of respect to her departed soul.

Dhaka Reporters Unity president Shahajam Sarder and secretary Mohidul Islam Raju expressed their deep shock at the death of OCAE General Secretary Nadim Qadir's mother, Hasna Hena.

They prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

PM condoles death

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of Hasna Hena Qadir.

In a condolence message the Prime Minister prayed to the Almighty Allah for eternal peace of the departed soul.

She also conveyed her sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Appointment

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Muhammad Bashiruzzaman has recently been appointed Director of Underprivileged Children's Educational Programme (UCEP), Bangladesh — an international organisation working for the underprivileged children.

Earlier, Dr Bashiruzzaman was the Deputy Director (Programmes) of the organisation, says a press release.

DNC Dy Director given force retirement

The government Thursday gave force retirement to Deputy Director of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) Khabir Uddin on charge of corruption and misconduct, official sources said.

A senior DNC official told BSS that Khabir was given force retirement following an order of the Home Ministry after departmental proceeding. He was found guilty during the investigation against him, the official added.

Khabir was transferred to Chittagong Metropolitan Zone after an allegation against him in connection with Tramps Club incident in Gulshan where club hero Sohail Chowdhury was murdered by some miscreants.



From left, Dr Juel Fine, Carrie Skryzinski, Mavis Clark, Nilisa Wilkins, Sharon Golden and Dr Ajmal of the "Operation Bangladesh" mission currently in the city.

A noble medical mission

By Staff Correspondent

A team of US surgeon, surgical technologist, anesthesiologist and sterilization specialist are in the capital on a mission of treating the underprivileged.

"Our special mission is aimed at providing general, laparoscopic and vascular surgeries (non-cardiac) for the poor in Bangladesh," said team leader Dr Ajmal Sobhan, a surgery specialist (vascular surgeon) from Virginia State.

The mission has been initiated by a group of 16 expatriate Bangladeshi physicians practicing in United States of America who has established an organisation called Project Bangladesh to establish health-care facility for the poor here.

Their mission is to treat poor patients in Bangladesh as well as to train local surgeons on modern techniques of surgeries.

Dr Sobhan and his team-mates talked to The Daily Star last Wednesday at Dr Salaudhin Hospital exchanging views and their experience during the mission.

"This is our second mission," Dr Sobhan said adding, "We treated 25 cases in two weeks in July 1998. Several local clinics namely Dr Salaudhin Hospital, Ayesha Memorial Hospital, Japan Bangladesh Hospital and BIRDEM Hospital generously provided space for those operations."

"This time we intend to perform more operations than we did last time. We particularly prefer women and children's cases," he said.

Nilisa Wilkins, a surgical technologist, said, "I was surprised to find so many people here who live with deformities and suffer which need simple correction. It's quite sad."

She said, "We are willing to continue our work. In fact, when we called for helping the underprivileged in local newspapers in US we got a massive response mostly from Bangladeshi expatriates."

Sharon Golden, a sterilisation specialist, said, "We have tons of medical supplies with us and more in US waiting to be transported here."

She said, "It is important that the medical supplies arrive in the country for the follow-up programmes."

Dr Sobhan said, "My dream is to establish a healthcare facility which caters to the poor and covers both medical and surgical specialty."

"As far as this surgical mission is concerned, the team will make a visit every year. We also plan to bring a plastic surgeon next year to treat congenital defects and deformities."

"We have tons of medical supplies like antibiotics, blood pressure medicines, and drugs for management of respiratory illnesses. We also have surgical instruments and grafts for vascular procedures. Unfortunately, due to difficulties in carrying the supplies could not come with the team."

The team which has performed six cases till last Friday also include Dr Joel Fine, anesthesiologist, Mavis Clark, scrub technician, and Carrie Skryzinski, operating room nurse.

They will be in the city till November 17.

Project Bangladesh in association with local help also runs a health care centre "Shushathya" at Bashabo, which has now been running for nine years.

RMMRU confce held

Call to protect rights of women, child refugees

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a conference in the city yesterday called for the protection of rights of women and children refugees.

They stated that as signatories to most human rights conventions including Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Child Rights Convention, the South Asian states including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka have promised to protect women's and children.

The conference, organised by the Dhaka University based Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), was held at the British Council, says a RMMRU press release.

A good number of refugees, scholars, researchers, NGO and human rights activists, UNHCR personnel of South Asian region and Oxford University are participating in the two-day programme.

In his opening statement Dr C R Abrar, Coordinator, RMMRU underscored the need for the South Asian states to accede to international refugee convention and develop a national law for dealing with the refugees.

In the first working session, Dr Asha Hans of Utkal University pleaded that the Indian government review its policy towards the Afghan refugees.

Extortion in the name of army punishable offence: ISPR

Bangladesh Army Thursday requested the law enforcing and intelligence agencies to take effective measures against those involved in extortion in the name of army, reports BSS.

The authorities of Bangladesh Army made the request after receiving allegations of collecting tolls from innocent people by some extortionists using the pad with monogram of the army, an ISPR release said.

It has been learnt that the pads of Bangladesh Army with monogram are being sold openly in different shops, it added.

The authorities expressed the hope that the conscious people and the law enforcing and intelligence agencies would hand over the offenders to the local law enforcing agencies.

The ISPR in the press release said collecting tolls using the name of army and printing its pad with monogram are completely illegal and punishable offence.

The authorities urged all to remain alert against the extortionist, the release added.

Dr Mahendra Lama of Jawaharlal Nehru University stated that women and children constitute three-fourth of the total South Asian refugee population and they deserve special policy measures.

In the second session, three papers were presented. Nasreen Ghufuran of Peshwar University and a Bhutanese refugee now residing in Nepal, Mangala Sharma, presented papers on Afghan and Bhutanese refugee women respectively.

The third paper on the plight of the Bangladeshi women migrants during the Gulf crisis was presented by Dr C R Abrar of Dhaka University. The session was chaired by Dr Iftekhar Zaman of Bangladesh Freedom Foundation.

Dr Sameh Youssef of MSF (H), Jaysree Jayanand of UNHCR, New Delhi, Dayal Kanti of Concern and Inge Colijn of UNHCR, Dhaka presented the papers at the final session of the day dealt with policies and management of women and children refugees. The session was chaired by Prof Ishrat Shameem. Senior academics, NGOs representatives and other civil society activists participated in the discussion.

The concluding session on the conference will be held at 4:30 pm today.

Body formed to probe into death of cadets

A high-powered probe body was formed to investigate the incidents that led to the tragic accident killing two cadets of Sylhet Cadet College yesterday, an ISPR press release said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

It said the committee would also recommend measures for avoiding such incident in future. Immediately after the accident, Adjutant General of Bangladesh Army and Chairman of the Governing Body of the Cadet College Major General Muhammad Masudur Rahman, Bir Protik, visited the Sylhet Cadet College and carried out preliminary enquiry.

Meanwhile, bodies of the two cadets were brought to the college after autopsy at Sylhet Osmany Medical College Hospital. After Namaz-e-Janaza, the bodies were handed over to the members of their families.

The Sylhet Cadet College authorities expressed their deep shock at the tragic end of lives of the two young boys and conveyed sympathies to members of the bereaved families.

Medical board for injured BNP leaders

The government has formed a three-member medical board for treatment of the three injured BNP leaders including Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, an official bandout said, Thursday reports BSS.

The board headed by chief of the department of surgery of Dhaka Medical College Hospital Prof MA Majid will examine the nature and extent of their injuries.

The board will submit its report to the Director General of Health Directorate within three days.

The other members of the board are Prof. Shaufuddin Ahmed of neurosurgery and Prof. Fazlul Huq of Medicine department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The injured leaders are Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, Zainal Abedin Farook, MP and Abdullah Al Noman.

Construction of 23 km link road begins

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday said the government had taken massive development programmes to strengthen the transportation network of the country, reports BSS.

He said this while inaugurating the construction of Madaripur-Shariyapur-Vederganj and Chandpur Link Road as the chief guest.

The 23-kilometre link road is being constructed at a cost of Taka 4.65 crore by the Roads and Highway Department.

The road will benefit a large number of people of this region on completion, he said, adding expansion of transportation is a precondition to national development.

The minister also distributed sewing machines among the unemployed poor and women at Vederganj. Later, the minister inaugurated the construction of a bridge on Sitapura Road at Damudda.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is building the bridge at a cost of Taka 18 lakh.

Int'l Quirat conference held

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury yesterday laid emphasis on providing extensive training for proper pronunciation of the holy Quran, reports BSS.

"Al Quran, the very important gift of Almighty Allah, has been written in Arabic. So, as non-Arabic people, we should take training to recite the Quran correctly," he said while inaugurating the 9th International Quirat Conference.

International Quran Recitation Association (IQRA) organised the conference at the Paltan Maidan here in which 15 qaris (reciters) from home and abroad took part.

Presided over by Qari Mohammad Yusuf, President of IQRA, the inaugural function was also addressed among others, by Khatib, Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Maulana Obaidul Haque, Haji Mohammad Selim, MF, Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad, MP, Syed Ahmed Musavi, Cultural Councillor of Iranian embassy, Maulana Ruhul Amin Khan, Executive Editor, the Daily Inqilab and Advocate Nuruzzaman.

The speaker said the meaning of the verses of the holy Quran would be distorted if it is recited incorrectly. He called for the development of the quality of its recitation.

Maulana Obaidul Haque called upon the Muslim ummah to uphold the lessons of the holy Quran. "People who do not uphold the lessons of the Quran cannot prosper in life," he added.

The speaker, later, handed over crests to the participant qaris. The Khatib handed over 'pagris' (turbans) to two qaris.

A total of 10 qaris, including five from Iran, Pakistan, India and United Arab Emirates, participated in the conference.

Mohammadullah

From page 1

honours in history in 1945. Muhammadullah joined the then East Pakistan Awami League in 1950. He was elected office secretary of the party and retained it till 1972. He actively took part in the historic Six-Point Movement for which he was imprisoned for a long time.

Muhammadullah was elected Member of the National Assembly (MNA) on Awami League ticket in 1970.

He was political advisor to Syed Nazrul Islam, Acting President of Mujibnagar Government during Liberation War in 1971.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday visited the residence of former President Muhammadullah.

He stayed there sometime and expressed his profound sorrow at the demise of former President.

He expressed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Later in a message of condolence, President paid homage to the late politician for his contributions in different capacities — as President from December 1973 to January 1975 and Speaker of the Parliament.

"Muhammadullah was an active organiser of the Liberation War... He was a man of well-behaved character," said the President.

In a separate condolence message, Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury expressed his deep shock at the death of Muhammadullah.

Egypt Air crash was not an accident'

WASHINGTON, Nov 12: Investigators probing the crash of EgyptAir flight 990 are focusing on surprising pre-flight behavior by crew members, suggesting the disaster was not an accident, the Boston Herald reported today, says AFP.

The Boston daily quoted the unnamed "source" as saying evidence had been uncovered suggesting one flight crew member had reason to believe "something was going to happen to the airplane."

Hassan Sherif, 26, a flight attendant, called his wife Rania from New York just before departing on flight 990 and told her "there was something wrong with the plane" and he was "very worried," the source said, according to the Herald.

Also, a member of the flight crew who was concerned something might go awry decided to leave money and a message for another crew member's family, the source said.

US concerned at Israeli radar sale to China

WASHINGTON, Nov 12: The United States has told Israel it is worried about a possible Israeli military radar sale to China, President Bill Clinton said on Thursday, adding that Washington was not sure the sale had gone through, reports Reuters.

"We have raised it with them because whenever one of our friends sells sophisticated equipment that might be American in origin... then we raise that," Clinton told reporters.

The president was commenting on a New York Times report that US officials were deeply concerned about the sale of a sophisticated 250 million dollars airborne radar system to China and had quietly urged Israeli officials to drop the sale.

Senior Pentagon officials fear the radar system, known as "the Phalcon," will enhance China's ability to threaten Taiwan, the report added.

The newspaper said Israel had assured Washington the sale does not involve US technology, but it cited a Pentagon official as saying that given the amount of weaponry Washington shares with Israel it was difficult to be sure.

Clinton said the United States wasn't certain the radar

system had in fact been sent to China, adding that he had not yet made up his mind what to do about the issue.

"The facts are in dispute," Clinton said when asked about the matter at an unrelated White House event.