

What's on today . . .

Film festival: Dost by Sadhu Meher will be screened on the 3rd day of the 'Children Film Festival'.

Birth anniversary programme: Noren Biswas Smriti Parishad will hold a day-long programme to celebrate the birth anniversary of Noren Biswas.

and tomorrow

Opening ceremony: The opening ceremony of New Horizons CLC of Dhaka, a unit of Independent Computers Learning Centres, will be held.

Film festival: Satyajit Ray's Sonar Kella is scheduled to be screened on the concluding day of the 'Children Film Festival'.

Weather

Night temperature may rise: Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

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

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.



(Left to right) Bob Bryan, Valerie Taylor (OBE) and Moqsud Khan are seen in the picture.

Pounds 2000 raised for CRP Bangladesh

A charity dinner in Sunninghill, Ascot in England has recently raised 2000 Sterling pounds for the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) Bangladesh.

Four held with arms in Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Nov 15: The police arrested four young men with a pipe gun, a toy pistol and looted goods from two trawlers at Kalikapur ferry ghat today.

AL leaders exchange views with labour leaders

Central leaders of Bangladesh Awami League yesterday exchanged views with the leaders of the labour organisations.

One killed in Jessore road accident

JESSORE, Nov 15: A youth was killed and another sustained injury in a road mishap near Malanchi under Kotwali thana here today.

Examinations postponed

Different universities of the country yesterday postponed today's examinations and other academic schedules due to opposition-called hartal.

All examinations of the Home Economics College under the university have also been postponed.

The National University postponed today examinations of BBA Part 2 and Part 3 of 1999 and today's scheduled meeting of the Academic Council.

Students of third year of BBA Discipline of Khulna University will be held on November 17.

Hartal in Ramadan Ulemas blast Khaleda's comments

Eminent Islamic thinkers (ulemas) of the country yesterday condemned the speech of Begum Khaleda Zia, who on Sunday compared hartal call during Ramadan to the divine Battle of Badr.

In a statement, the eleven ulema observed Khaleda Zia's statement as a heinous attack on the religious belief of Muslims.

The signatories to the statement were Moulana Ruhul Amin Khan, Moulana Wahiduzzaman, Shaikhul Hadis Moulana Abdur Rahim, Moulana Abdul Ali, Moulana Abdul Zolil, Moulana Abu Sufian, Moulana Abul Kashem Borkoti, Moulana Abdur Rahman, Moulana Abdul Hamid, Moulana Delwar Hussain and Moulana Nurul Haque.

DU teachers to need prior permission to work outside

Teachers of Dhaka University will now be required to obtain prior permission from the university for consultation work or service in other university or college.

Muslim rebels, troops begin fresh fighting in Philippines

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines, Nov 15: Armed Muslim separatists today shut down a major highway in the southern island of Mindanao, provoking a clash with government forces.

Global alliance aims to eradicate leprosy by 2005

GENEVA, Nov 15: The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced today the creation of a worldwide partnership aimed at eradicating leprosy by 2005 in the 12 countries where 90 per cent of leprosy cases thrive.

Lesotho to bestow highest order on Chief Anyaoku

DURBAN, South Africa, Nov 15: The Kingdom of Lesotho will Tuesday bestow its highest order on outgoing Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Anyaoku.

Countrywide drive 90 held for travelling without tickets on train

Ninety people were arrested while 171 were fined on charges of travelling without ticket at city's Cantonment railway station yesterday.



Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury addressing the inaugural session of a three-day regional seminar on Media, Human Rights and Child Abuse at a city hotel yesterday.



Students of Rokeya Hall (batch 1996-97) brought out a procession on the occasion of their farewell reception on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

'Enrolment of children at primary schools close to target'

The current net enrolment of children at primary schools stands at 82 per cent and completion of their education at 60 per cent which is close to the target set for the year 2000.

The project has been especially designed to meet the educational needs of the working children living in urban slums. Over one-fifth of the country's population now live in urban areas and the government estimates this number will be nearly 30 per cent by the year 2000.

More than 50 per cent of the enrolled children in these schools are girls. UNICEF officials told BSS adding that local government bodies as well as city and municipal corporation authorities have been extending cooperation towards effective management of the project activities.

Children account for about 56 per cent of urban slum inhabitants with most of them working to help support their families. In some families, the project profile said, child labour accounts for one-third of the family's income coming from brick-breaking, food or flower sale, domestic work, rickshaw-pulling, welding, auto mechanics and many other odd jobs.

DU Marketing Deptt silver jubilee

The Department of Marketing of Dhaka University is celebrating its silver jubilee through various programmes.

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MAG's role as a custodian of the Harare Principles which set out the core Commonwealth ideals of democracy, human rights and rule of law.

Pakistan

The communiqué incorporated the decision on Pakistan, released earlier on Sunday at the end of the retreat.

Terrorism, small arms

The heads pledged to "promote international and regional co-operation and to strengthen the international legal framework to ensure that terrorists do not find safe haven in any part of the world."

Leaders missing

This year, the CHOGM saw the highest attendance of the heads of government - 47 of them came. In all, there were 52 national delegations.

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Economic, financial issues

The CHOGM called for a joint Commonwealth position in multilateral trade negotiations and asked the Secretariat to increase its contribution to such talks.

Nasim meets T&T Union leaders

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday called upon the leaders of Bangladesh T and T officers and employees Federal Union to refrain from involving in anti-organisational activities.

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domestic trade policy institutions and building their capacities for negotiations.

"If the benefits of globalisation are to be shared more widely, there must be greater equity for countries in global markets," said the Fancourt Declaration.

The heads called for "swift implementation of recent international agreements to promote deeper, wider and faster debt relief, with an overarching aim of reducing poverty in Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC).

"They emphasised the need for adequate debt relief and technical assistance from the international community to reinforce poverty reduction strategies in debtor countries and help them achieve internationally agreed poverty reduction and development targets by 2015," the communiqué said.

The heads also spoke of the right of member countries to compete in the international financial markets through provision of both onshore and offshore financial services.

They also recognised the need for improvements in the existing framework to regulate international financial transactions and markets, given their increasing volume, size and complexity occasioned by globalisation," it said.

They also asked the Secretariat to help member countries in improving their operating practices and regulatory mechanisms to prevent financial crime, notably money laundering.

They also called for release of "Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and others detained with him."

Heads of government condemned the unconstitutional overthrow of the democratically elected government in Pakistan ... they believed that no legitimacy should be accorded to the military regime and called for restoration of civilian democratic rule without delay," said the communiqué.

The heads' concern came in the wake of a report - Over A Barrel: Light Weapons and Human Rights in the Commonwealth - submitted to the CHOGM by the New Delhi-based Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

The significance of civil society was a major issue at the summit as the leaders promised to aid the "capacity-building efforts" of local and regional NGOs.

They noted the significance of civil society in empowering people to benefit from globalisation, in contributing towards our goal of poverty elimination. They said accumulation and proliferation of small arms, ammunition and light weapons were largely responsible for "the intensity and duration of armed conflicts as well as for international terrorism."

The issue of poverty should not merely be addressed by dispensing aid," President Mbeki told journalists after the concluding CHOGM session today, referring to other factors such as the role of civil society.

This year, the CHOGM saw the highest attendance of the heads of government - 47 of them came. In all, there were 52 national delegations.

The elected members who met the minister include the union president Mostafa Jamaluddin Ahmed and secretary general Mohammad Mahbulul Islam.

Thabane was in the eastern port city of Durban for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, where New Zealand Foreign Minister Don McKinnon was unanimously elected to take over.

He said King Letsie III would confer on Anyaoku the kingdom's Knight Commander of the Most Courteous Order of Lesotho at the royal palace in the capital Maseru.

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Bangladesh Anti-Drug Federation brought out a procession protesting the tobacco advertisements on television in the city yesterday.