(What's on today)

Seminar: A day-long seminar on the birth centenary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be held. Venue: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. Time: 9:30 am.

Ananda Dibash: Shoisab Bangladesh organises ananda dibash on the occasion of Child Domestic Workers' Day. Venue: Iqbal Road field, Mohammadpur. Time: 9.00 am -5.00 pm.

Exhibition: A 15 day-long exhibition of "Bangladeshi herbal plants: Preservation and Prospects" will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Prof Abu Sayed, State Minister for Information. Venue: Kabi Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Museum. Time: 10.00 am.

Exhibition: Angelique Fashion displays a collection of women's clothing and men's punjabi. Venue: House No 53, Road No 8/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 10.00 am -8.00 pm.

Discussion: A discussion "Celebrating 10th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child" will be held. Organiser: Amnesty International Bangladesh. Venue: Amnesty Int office. Time: 10:00 am.

BJA seminar: A seminar titled "Role of candidates, voters and journalists in a free and fair election" will be held. Organiser: Bangladesh Journalists Association (BJA). Venue: RAJUK auditorium. Time: 3.30 pm.

Meeting: The regular club meeting of Lions Club of Dhaka South, District 315 B1 will be held. Venue: Mohanagar Community Centre. Time: 5:00 pm.

Annual events: JICA Alumni Association will hold its annual events. Chief guest: Engr Mosharraf Hossain, Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism and Public Works. Venue: LGED auditorium, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 6.00 pm.

Biennial meeting: The 2nd biennial general meeting of Ex-Officers Association of Fisons (EXAF) will be held, the new executive body for 2000-2001 of EXAF will also be formed at the meeting. Venue: Women's Voluntary Association's new hall, Rd No 27 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.00 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country with partly cloudy sky over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UND. Slight rise in night temperature is expected across the country during the period while it may fall in the subsequent two

days, according to Met Office. The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 30.4 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and Satkhira and the lowest 15.0 degrees at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.11 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.17 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature Humidity in

	in Celsius		percentage	
10000 1000	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.5	18.6	72	81
Chittagong	30.0	18.4	77	<i>7</i> 5
Rajshahi	28.5	18.8	87	89
Khulna	30.2	19.7	63	70
Barisal	30.0	18.0	77	86
Sylhet	29.5	17.0	7 8	80
Cox's Bazar	30.4	19.0	65	75
	<u> </u>			

Arms control

From page 1

"I will only submit this

area — thereby ending Moscow's

agreement to the Senate for ad-

vice and consent to ratification

when Russian forces have in

fact been reduced to the There

els set fourth in the adopted

"preserve NATO's ability to ful-

fill its post-Cold War responsi-

bilities," and "enhance peace,

security and stability through-

But, in comments directed

toward Moscow, Clinton said

the treaty will only work if we

"have confidence that there will

The original conventional

forces treaty foresaw 40,000

battle tanks, 60,000 armoured

combat vehicles, 40,000 pieces

of artillery, 13,600 combat air-

craft and 4,000 attack heli-

copters in a region of Europe

bordered by the Atlantic Ocean

modifications said the new ceil-

ings are about half that. Russia.

with the most weapons, is lim-

ited to 6,350 battle tanks under

the revised treaty, while the

United States is allowed 1,812

such weapons in the area of

lows nations freer verification

and inspection possibilities.

The modified treaty also al-

Prof Yunus

From page 1

tangible benefits to the family,

the community, the nation and

Vice President Krishan Kant

the entire human race," Vaj-

and Congress President Sonia

Gandhi, who is also chairper-

son of Indira Gandhi Memorial

Trust, were also present on the

ceptance speech, suggested "Cre-

ation of an International Cen-

tre for Information Technology

to end Global Poverty" saying

information technology can

help ending poverty "faster

to develop Grameen Bank

which, he said, now works in

40,000 villages in Bangladesh

extending loans to 2.4 million

borrowers of whom, 95 per cent

Explaining the activities of

the Grameen Bank, he said it

was offering all types of loans

to generate income. More than

half a million houses have been

built with Grameen loan, he

Obituary

Director of Secondary

Education and former head-

mistress of Khulna Coronation

Government girls school

Rashida Begum, 63, died of a

massive heart attack at a local

clinic in the early hours of to-

two sons and two daughters.

She left behind her husband.

The Namaz-e-Janaza of

Rashida Begum was held today

after Juma prayers on the local

Madrasah ground. She was

buried at the city's Tootpara

day, reports UNB.

graveyard.

KHULNA, Nov 19: Deputy

Yunus recalled the struggle

than we ever dreamt of."

Prof Yunus, in his award ac-

Europe covered.

payee said.

occasion

are women.

German negotiators of the

and Russia's Ural Mountains.

He said the treaty would

treaty," said Clinton.

be real compliance."

out Europe."

violation of the CFE treaty.

Dhaka for use of advanced technology at UN

Bangladesh has extended its full support for increased use of advanced technology in the United Nations and stressed on taking up coherent and result oriented approach in the affairs undertaken by different bodies involved in public information activities, reports BSS from New York.

Speaking at the fourth committee of the 54th session of the UNGA on the "question relating to information", Prof Khaleda Khanam MP expressed Bangladesh's happiness that DPI (Department of Public Information) has taken up various initiatives to improve the information system of the world body.

DPI is an organ of the UN Secretariat and is entrusted with the task of disseminating information to project the image of the United Nations. While supporting the use of

advanced technology, Prof Khanam, however, reminded all that the new tool should not do away with traditional means of communications, which, she said, are the main sources of information in most of the developing countries. She said more use of radio and television as well as the establishment of UN news service could serve that purpose.

The Bangladesh delegation member expressed serious concern at the current status of the integration process in general and the condition of integrated UN Information Centres in particular. She said the experience in Bangladesh reveals that it neither functions efficiently nor is it cost effective. The decision to review the matter as decided last May should be expedited, she added.

Prof Khanam, Whip of Jatiya Sangsad and a member of Bangladesh delegation to the current session of UNGA. lauded DPI for developing and maintaining a very useful and attractive website of the United Nations.

She observed that the United Nations information should focus more on publicising the UN activities and the accomplishments in the area of economy and social development.

Death anniversary By Staff Correspondent



anniversary of martyrdom of Shaheed Lt Abu Moyeen Mohammad Ashfagus Samad, Bir Uttam will be observed to-

Lt Samad was killed in a confrontation with Pakistani occupation army during the country's Liberation War on the day in 1971 at Joymonirhat under Bhurungyamari of Kuri-

gram district. He was buried there and the area was named Samadnagar

after his memory A milad mahfil will be organised after Asr prayers at his younger brother's residence at House no 133, Road : 8, Block: B, Section 12 of Mirpur in the city.

BCSS film, TV awards announced

Bangladesh Chalacitra Sangbadik Samity (BCSS) yesterday announced its award for the best performers in different fields of film, television and stage for the years 1996-97, reports BSS.

Shubarna Mostafa and Alamgir were adjudged the best film actress and actor for 1996. while the top prizes of the samity went to Shucorita and Asad for their best performance in 1997.

The best films were Poka Makorer Ghar Basati (96) and Dukhai (97).

Dhaka mayor Mohammad Hanif handed over the awards as the chief guest at a function to the samity at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel this evening.

Speaking at a discussion before the glittering award-giving ceremony, Hanif called upon the government to extend allout help and cooperation to the creative artists in film, televi-

sion and stage. He lauded the efforts of the samity for giving recognition to the best performers of different fields every year.

Senior journalists Rafiquzzaman, Chinmoy Mutshuddi, Khairuzzaman and Aziz Misir and samity General Secretary Shariful Azam, who were involved in the process of selection of the best awardees spoke on the occasion. It was presided over by the samity President Golam Kibria.

Since its inception in 1967, the samity has been giving best awards to performers in film. It has recently included the artistes of television and stage on their list.

Besides the best male and female performers for acting. the samity also select other branches of the film including the best films, best editing, sound recording, art direction and others.

Different bodies hail UNESCO proclamation

By Staff Correspondent

Different socio-cultural and political organisations have taken up various programmes to celebrate UNESCO's proclamation of February 21 as International Mother Language

Day.
Sammilito Sangskritik Jote will hold a rally and bring out a colourful procession today at 3:30 pm from TSC road island of Dhaka University.

Workers Party of Bangladesh at a meeting yester-day welcomed the UNESCO decision, saying that it is a mark of honour to Bangladesh and Bengali language.

Nazmul Islam Naz, President and general secretary respectively of Sylhet Division Development Movement, hailed the UNESCO decision.

"The endorsement has delighted the Bengali nation," the leaders said in a statement.



Birth anniversary of Mohammad Nasiruddin today

The 111th birth anniversary of late Mohammad Nasiruddin, former Editor of Shawgat, will be observed today, says a press release.

A special discussion will be held at Kachi Kancha auditorium at Segunbagicha at 4:30 pm in the afternoon on the occasion. Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiky, Prof Mustafa Nur-ul-Islam. Prof Anisuzzaman and Prof Rafigul Islam will be among the discussants.

The discussion will be followed by a cultural programme.

Smuggled goods recovered

MAGURA, Nov 19: Police recovered smuggled Indian goods from a pick-up van at Arapara Bazar in Salikha thana on Dhaka-Jessore highway today, reports UNB.

The estimated value of the contraband that includes motor parts, garments and cosmetics, is about Tk 2 lakh. Supervisor of the van Tulu Mia was arrested in this con-

nection.

One killed in Narsingdi road accident

NARSINGDI, Nov 19: A young pedestrian was killed in a road mishap on Dhaka-Narsingdi highway at Shatirpara near the town today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Monir Hossain, 25, of Banshgari village in Raipura thana, was hit by a speeding bus from behind while he was crossing the road at about 5:30 pm. He died on the

Body of Munir was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A

PM reaffirms commitment to child rights convention

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to the purposes of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the convention, she said ten years ago the international community made a solemn vow to give highpriority and full recognition to human rights and fundamental freedoms of children for their survival, safety, protection and development. The world summit for children in 1990 also set goals to improve the condition of children worldwide, she said.

Today, ratification of the convention by 191 states, a number even greater than the membership of the United Nations itself, is a clear vindication of global commitment to secure a safer and happier future for children in the next millennium, she added.

Daunting challenges such as malnutrition, lack of basic education and health services for children, high incidence of infant mortality, prevalence of harmful and exploitative forms of child labour, increase in the number of children in armed conflicts, sexual exploitation, trafficking and abuse of children continue to threaten the survival and development of millions of children worldwide. she said.

Poverty alone is the worst violator of human rights as it denies children their childhood, she said. The use of children in armed conflicts must be stopped while their safety should also be ensured during such conflicts. Children's rights are also integrally linked with the right to development, the Prime Minister said.

She said the UN specialised agencies, UNICEF, ILO and UNESCO in particular, are playing an important role in supporting governments in their efforts to strengthen human rights standards for children and improve their socioeconomic condition and mental development.

signatories to the convention Bangladesh remains fully committed to its effective implementation with special attention and importance of the vulnerability of the girl child. she reiterated.

Within SAARC, Bangladesh is especially committed to combat trafficking of children for prostitution, she said. "We are also implementing the goals of the SAARC decade of the girl child and the SAARC programme to end hazardous and bonded child labour by 2000 and eradication of all child Jabour by 2010. To create still a greater awareness on the convention we are planning to host an Asian Summit on the convention on the rights of the child and the media early next year, she added.

She hoped that the international community, the civil society and individual governments would work in greater cooperation to create a global culture of peace to ensure full protection and promotion of

As one of the first twenty



Nari Sramik Kendra, an organisation of women workers, brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting all types of violence against women. -Star photo

Ctg Port From page 1

spillage as they don't have any monitoring system.

"We have instructed our pilot boat people and others to inform us about oil spillage by any cargo ship" one official

Mercantile Marine Department sources said they only concentrate on checking 'seaworthy certificates and other related papers of ships.

A senior official of the department said, "it is actually the duty of coast guards to look into cases of oil spillage, but due to lack of logistics, they cannot do it".

An official of environment department said, "We cannot function as we want due to various limitations and lack of logistics to detect oil spillage in the Bay".

Some sources say that mechanised boats operating in the Karnaphuli channel and ships brought for scrapping in Sitakundu coastal area are also responsible for oil spillage.

Jyoti Basu From page 1 vote-catcher.

The CPI (M) and other constituents of the Front would not like to miss Basu's services in the campaign for fresh state assembly elections which are due in year 2001. However, the CPI (M) polit-

buro did agree to create the post of Deputy Chief Minister in West Bengal, where Left Front is in power, to help "lessen" the burden on Basu. Political observers said the

creation of the post is aimed at paving the way for a "phased" retirement of Basu from politics as it will help his successor to ready himself for the top job in West Bengal.

Although CPI (M), which leads the Left Front, has not yet named who will be Deputy Chief Minister, Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, the number two in Jyoti Basu ministry, is widely tipped to be elevated to that

A farm project From page 12

know how to handle perishable

He further said huge amount of produces are either damaged on board or off loaded due to lack of space in aircraft.

"Besides, Biman frequently pushed freight charge up whenever taka was devalued against US dollar," he alleged. The freight charge was increased as many as 13 times in the last three years, he said. "This has increased the cost of vegetable export and reduced the profit margin." "If the government provides

necessary support, the yearly export earnings from this sector can be increased up to Tk 500 crore from the present Tk 200 crore," Zaman commented. He demanded 50 per cent re-

duction of freight charge or 25 cent cash subsidy from the government for developing the sector and increasing export earnings. Other leaders of the association including its general secretary Ashikur Reza Chowdhury

were also present. They assured

the farmers of buying their

products for export if those were

available in appropriate time with required quality. The vegetables are mainly exported to European and middle eastern countries but the market can be expanded to many other countries, the ex-

porters said.

5-yr programme on child care which attaches deep affection to

A five-year programme on early childhood care focusing on the survival, growth and development of children will begin in 2001 under the joint col-laboration of UNICEF, the government and other development partners, reports BSS. [

This was disclosed by senior programme officer of UNICEF Jun Kukita at a symposium at the Sasakawa Auditorium of ICDDR'B in the city on Thurs-

Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP), National Nutrition Programme Preparatory Team (NNP-PT) and UNICEF country office in Dhaka organised the symposium with the participation of local and foreign child and nutrition experts.

The experts observed that care, health and food were the three main components essential for the optimal growth and development of children. They stressed the need for a mechanism in the field of nutrition for community-based use.

The symposium, held in two sessions, was presided over by Women Affairs Secretary Dr Tehmina Hussain and Health and Family Velfare Secretary MM Reza. Five Foreign experts - Dr Gassie Landers, Dr Lida Lhotska. Adhyia Jung Rana, Patrice Engle and Keiko Kita gave four presentations on early childcare and case studies on India, Nepal and the Mal-

Prof MQK Talukder, Dr Shamim Ahmed and former secretary Manzurul Karim took part in the discussion. Referring to the traditional childcare system in Bangladesh

children, they said, children are still suffering due to malnutrition inflicted on them by poverty. They described child devel-

opment as the fundamental human development and said the care and attention needed by a kid in the first year of its birth was the most important factor for building its career.

The aims and objectives of the symposium were earlier projected to the audience by Line Director of BINP Mohammad Ayub and Team Leader of NNP-PT Rezaul Karim.

Roundtable on gas energy today

A national roundtable on "Gas Strategy in Bangladesh" will be held today at the BIISS auditorium under the joint auspices of APEC-Bangladesh friendship society and Bangladesh institute of law and international affairs (BILIA), reports BSS.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury will be chief guest at the opening session Barrister Amirul Islam will preside over the first working session, while the second and third sessions will be presided over by former energy ministe:r Dr Khandaker Mosharraif Hossain, MP, and former finance minister Saifur Rahman MP respectively.

A fire broke out at an unauthorized oil depot at Masdair in Narayanganj yesterday. -Star photo

Charges against Sharif

From page 1 lows for at least two remands in police custody of up to seven

days each before formal charges are laid. Meanwhile in the federal capital of Islamabad, the Supreme Court today ordered Sharif to appear on Dec 7 in a separate case involving an alleged attack on the Supreme Court by his party loyalists in

During his brief appearance before the antiterrorist court in southern Karachi, Sharif reportedly told the judge that he knew nothing of the charges against him until earlier today. said Iqbal Raad, one of his lawyers.

"Just today I am hearing that a case of hijacking and conspiracy to murder has been registered against me ... for a person who has been confined for more than one month without knowing anything about charges, I can't say anything," Raad quoted Sharif as saying in an interview outside the courthouse.

"Not a single police official has contacted me about these cases or asked me any questions," he quoted Sharif as saying. "Now I will set about preparing my defense."

Sharif told Raad that he had been confined in the resort town of Murree, outside Islamabad, since his ouster. The conditions were bleak, according to Raad who did not elaborate other than to say Sharif's quarters were cold.

The charges against Sharif stem from an incident the same day of the coup in which a passenger aircraft returning Army Chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf to Pakistan was denied permission to land in Karachi. Two fire engines blocked the runway and the runway lights were turned off.

After the army soldiers took

provincial affairs, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, former chairman of Pakistan's national carrier, Aminuddin Chaudhry, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority and Rana Maqbool, former Inspector General of Sindh Police.

control of the airport, the plane was allowed to land — with just

seven minutes' of fuel to spare.

case are: Ghaus Ali Shah, his

former advisor on Sindh

Also accused in the same

Security around the antiterrorist court was tight with police refusing to allow reporters in the courthouse prior to Sharif's appearance. Some reporters and photographers were slightly beaten by police.

Shortly before Sharif arrived police arrested several women, who had tried to stage a sit-in outside the courthouse in support of Sharif, who arrived in an armoured personnel carrier wearing a pale blue shalwar kameez and looking tired. His court appearance lasted barely 30 minutes.

Traffic on the road outside the courthouse was rerouted. Machine gun toting policemen using metal detectors searched

people entering the courthouse. According to a court statement published in the Englishlanguage daily newspaper The News, the pilot of the aircraft Capt Sarwat Hussain said he was told by the Air Traffic Control tower "to take the carrier outside Pakistan's territory at his own risk."

After being denied permission to land and because fuel was dangerously low, Hussain said he diverted the aircraft to Nawabshah, several hundred kilometers north of Karachi. But halfway there he received a message that he could land in Karachi. He returned and "when the plane descended there was only seven minutes of fuel left." the newspaper quoted his statement as saying.

Door for dialogue

From page 1 'agitations, she said.

Hasina said, "People must build up resistance against har-tals. The press should also help create anti-hartal public opin-

Asked about complaints of rigging in the recent parliamen-tary by election in Tangail-8 constituency, made by Kader Siddique, Hasina dismissed any wrongdoing on the part of the government. She said it surprising that Siddique brought out processions before noon on the election day, saying there was rigging. He violated electoral rules by taking law in his own hands on the polling day and created terror in the area using his bahini, she

added. None had the courage to cast vote". Hasina said and asked with what intention Kader Siddique contested the po'ils. "Did he want to win or did he want to create anarchy?"

Hasina said some people wanted to fish in troubled waters. "What are the alamats (indications) of all these activities backed by a section of peo-

Without naming Gana Forum leader Dr Kamal Hossain. she said, "This gentleman is also trying to raise his profile by speaking a lot."

Bangladesh is not Pakistan and still there are people in this country who open their umbrellas when it rains in Pakistan, she said. Hasina said the main reason

the Opposition wants to create chaos is to save the killers of Bangabandhu and prevent them from being hanged. On Comments

Replying to a question if she regretted her comments in Parliament about the Leader of the Opposition, she said, "I do not think I have made any indecent statement. I have just narrated a fact. If some one could create an incident, why could not I speak about it?"

Commonwealth SG, OIC On the outcome of polls for BCL activist

From page 1

severely Jhotan was rushed to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at about

A student of Madan Mohan

College Jhutan was involved in construction business. He was an activist of BCL Mihir Group The BCL has blamed the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal for the killing but JCD denied the

allegation. Protesting the killing, the agitated BCL activists brought out a procession in the town at night. The processionists attacked a number of shops in Zindabazar, Court-point and Taltala areas. Several crackers

were blasted and gunshots fired. Later, the police lobbed tear gas shell and dispersed the processionists.

Mongla Port

From page 1

It has been alleged that importers did not unload their goods on time despite frequent reminders. But the importer of soda has,

on the otherhand, brought charges of violation of terms and conditions of charter agreement against the ship owner in reaching the port per as schedule. Sources close to Mongla Port Authority blamed both the cus-

ments for allowing MV Huzu to leave the port. But harbour department denied the charge and said that all dues will have to be realised

toms and the Harbour depart-

from the shipping agent. Proprietor of Penguin Corporation has lodged a complaint against MV Huzu with Mongla thana today.

post of Commonwealth Secretary General, the Prime minister said, "The New Zealand candidate was endorsed through consenus among the heads of state present at CHOGM. We discussed and withdrew our candidate (Farooq Sobhan). It was done for consensus."

When asked if Bangladesh's candidate for the post of OIC Secretary General Humyaun Rahsid Chowdhury would meet the same fate, she said, "We cannot win all elections. But we can try. Participation in poils for international positions enhances the country's image."

NAM Summit In reply to a question, if Bangladesh was taking adequate preparations for the NAM Summit in Dhaka, Hasina said, "Necessary preparations are going on.

She, however, added, "We do not have experience. There is also the problem of accommodation. Various committees have been formed to look into different aspects. Besides, we are discussing with other countries having experience. Bangladesh as chairman of

the next NAM Summit is 'part of the NAM Troika,' she men-The Prime Minister said Bangladesh played a 'very con-

structive' role at the CHOGM and she exchanged views with South African President Thabo Mbeki and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Her three-day visit to Saudi

Arabia further strengthened the cordial ties between the two countries, she said. Hasina expressed immense happiness over UNESCO's declaration of February 21 as International Mother Language

Day and said, "I have no words to express my satisfaction." The press conference was attended by, among others, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury and Awami League Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and

Prof Abu Sayeed. Snails

State Minister for Information

From page 12

farms to fatten the prawns.

The crushed shells are used as fishmeal, fodder for chicken and duck and in preparing materials for white-wash of buildings The women sell one kilo-

gram of snails for Tk three.

They get Tk 40 for crushing two bags of snails. They sell snails flesh at Tk 8-10 per kg. But the retail price of a sack of snail is Tk 120. Rasheduzzaman said, the IUCN has taken up a project in

Chandar beel area to train farmers raise snails in ponds to lessen the pressure on wetlands. The project work began in Octo-The project under the UNDPaided National Environment

Management Programme aims

at extensive cultivation of

snails so that the wetland eco-

system survives and shrimp farms are also benefited, Rasheduzzaman said. But the dangerous trend of denuding the wetlands of the precious wealth is continuing. Mohsin reported. The snail collectors and the women who process those get very little. The aratdars or wholesellers who

buy the flesh keep those in

warehouses and sell to shrimp

farmers at a high price. The problem is not only in Chandar beel area. During a recent visit to Munshiganj, this correspondent-found people collecting snails from wetlands for chicken farmers.

Their hunt is virtually emptying the wetlands of snails. Unless more programmes are undertaken in different parts of the country to train people raise snails, the useful aquatic creature may be extinct, Rasheduzzaman said.