

## News

## ● What's on today . . . ●

**Exhibition:** A five-day-long exhibition of 40 art pieces from the 4th Berger Young Painters' Art Competition will be inaugurated. Venue: Zainal Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 10:00 am.

**Discussion meeting:** A discussion meeting on "Bangabandhu and the four national leaders" will be held to mark the Jati Killing Day. Chief guest: Amir Hossain Amu, President member of Awami League. Venue: Dhaka College premises. Time: 11:00 am.

## Weather

## Dry weather likely

Dry weather is likely to prevail over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country during the period, according to Met Office.

The country's highest temperature was recorded yesterday at 30.7 degrees Celsius at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 13.4 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:19 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.7	15.1	64	75	-
Chittagong	29.2	17.2	77	-	-
Rajshahi	27.6	16.2	75	77	-
Khulna	28.5	17.5	76	72	-
Barisal	28.7	16.2	74	85	-
Sylhet	29.5	17.6	71	74	-
Cox's Bazar	30.7	18.6	57	-	-

## HERE and THERE

## Women for Women

By Staff Correspondent

A two-day national conference on "Health System in Bangladesh: Women's Perspective" was held at Planning and Development Academy here on Friday and Saturday.

Women for Women, a research and study group, organised the conference which discussed the health and population policy, work strategies for implementation of programmes and women's health issue, said a press release yesterday.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan addressed the inaugural function as chief guest. In his speech, Prof Rehman Sobhan elaborately discussed the current health system and opportunity and limitation of women's health service.

World Bank's Social Sector team leader WB Herbert presented a statement on the bank's health related projects in the country.

Presided over by Prof Jahana Haq, it was addressed, among others, by Dr Khaleda Salahuddin and Rawshan Jahan.

The conference was divided into six sessions and a total of 12 keynote papers were presented during the two-day programme. Recommendations were prepared and adopted through group discussion.

## Kabi Nazrul College

Awami League president member Amir Hossain Amu yesterday urged the people to resist the opposition's conspiracy to create unrest and anarchy in society, reports BSS.

Speaking at freshers' reception at Kabi Nazrul Government College, the Awami League leader said a political party which was born in cantonment has resorted to anarchic activities by joining hands with the defeated forces of 1971 under a blue print.

Amu urged the patriotic and

conscious section in the society to come forward to foil the evil designs against peace, democracy and development.

Speaking on the occasion as special guest, City Mayor Mohammad Hanif urged the opposition to follow the constitutional process to change the government instead of hatching conspiracy.

He advised the students to equip themselves with proper knowledge so that they shoulder the responsibility of building a "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by the Bangabandhu.

Presided over by Kabi Nazrul College unit of the BCL, Ashrafuddin Rubel, the reception was addressed, among others, by BCL central leaders Nazrul Islam Babu, Golam Faruk Mamun, Miraj Hossain, Giasuddin Polash and Zahidul Islam.

**Bangladesh Bar Council**

Justice A M Bhattacharjee, former Chief Justice of Calcutta, Bombay and Sikkim of India delivered a speech on "Instructions to the New Entrant Lawyers" at the Bangladesh Bar Council's premises yesterday, says a press release.

Justice Bhattacharjee said that duty of lawyers is not to lead the court but to lead the client. He asked the lawyer community not to think like a court officer but to think like a client officer. Social justice should be linked with the interest of the weaker section of the society, he observed.

The programme was presided over by M Amirul Islam, Barrister-at-Law, Vice-Chairman, Bangladesh Bar Council and Chairman of Legal Education & Training Institute.

Justice Ebadi Haque and Justice Abdul Mannan from Supreme Court of Bangladesh, M A Salam Talukder, Chairman, Human Rights & Legal Aid Committee of Bar Council and M Mohsen Rashid, Coordinator, Bar Vocational Course of Legal Education & Training Institute of Bar Council were also present.

## Shantu for sustainable development in CHT

RANGAMATI, Nov 22: Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo alias Shantu Larma, chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, said here today that he wants to solve all the problems of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) permanently, reports BSS.

"We want to make plans which can ensure entity of the multi-lingual indigenous people living in CHT," Shantu said yesterday at the concluding session of a two-day workshop for chalking out work plan for CHT.

Rangamati unit of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) organised the workshop, sponsored jointly by international federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and international committee of the Red Cross.

Ching Kew Reaza, president of Rangamati unit of BDRCS and chairman of Rangamati hill district council, presided over both the inaugural and concluding sessions.

## Berger Young Painters' Award ceremony held

The award giving ceremony of the 4th Berger Young Painters' Art Competition was held at Hotel Sonargaon on Sunday, says a press release.

Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited has been organising the nation-wide art competition for the last four years to patronise the young painters of the country. This year, 259 participants took part in the competition.

Renowned artist Professor Aminul Islam was present at the function as special guest and distributed prizes among the winners of the competition.

The winners are Mohammad Mustafa Shaheedul Islam, Rezatul Hoq Khan, Rahima Begum, Sofia Begum, Nahida Sharmin and Abash Kumar Indu.

Speaking on behalf of Berger Paints (BD) Ltd, Managing Director, Masih-ul Karim, said, "As a responsible corporate citizen, Berger is always committed to the society and Young Painters Art Competition is an example of Berger's social commitment.

Berger has also organised a 5-day exhibition at the Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University with 40 selected paintings, which will be inaugurated by the Managing Director of Berger Paints (BD) Ltd on November 23 at 10 am.

## Pirates hijack fishing boat

BARGUNA, Nov 22: Armed pirates hijacked a fishing boat along with seven fishermen from the bay, 70-km off Mohiupur coast, early Sunday.

According to Patharghat Trawler Owners' Association, a gang of 20-25 pirates aboard a sophisticated engine boat waylaid the fishing boat, FR Dulal, at about 3 am and overpowered it.

Three of the fishermen managed to escape by jumping into the sea. They were rescued by another fishing boat, after floating for 10 hours in the bay.

The date for submitting tender invited for procuring computer equipment for a project titled "Introducing Computer System in Bangladesh Television" has been fixed on 29.11.99 by extending the date due to unavoidable circumstances. Submitting of tender time for opening and place are unchanged. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 24.11.99 at 11:00 AM in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer in presence of the participants on request of the probable valued participants in the tender. Representatives of the concerned establishments are requested to attend.

**Sayed Lutfi Ali**

Project Director

Project for Introducing Computer System in Bangladesh Television

G-2008

## M A Chowdhury Ltd appointed distributor for GrameenPhone

An agreement has been signed appointing M A Chowdhury Ltd as a distributor for marketing and sales of EASY card and pre-paid service of GrameenPhone, says a press release.

Kafil H S Muyeed, DGM Marketing of GrameenPhone, and Salauddin Chowdhury, Managing Director of M A Chowdhury Ltd, signed the agreement in a ceremony on November 20.

Khandaker Hafiz, Channel Sales Manager, GrameenPhone; Mir Jahiruddin Ahmed, Sales Officer, GrameenPhone; Sohel Zaman, Corporate Manager, ANZ Grindlays Bank, Khulna; and Abdul Hasnat Chowdhury, an eminent businessman of Khulna, were present on the occasion.

M A Chowdhury Ltd will operate in 25 departmental stores and retail shops in Khulna City, Khalishpur, Fulata, Dowlatpur, Noapara, Rupsha, and other areas.

## Iranian delegation praises success of family planning programmes

Members of the visiting five-member Iranian population delegation praised the success of family planning programmes of Bangladesh and also appreciated the government's role in this regard, reports BSS.

During a meeting with State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah at his office, the delegation led by Dr Sadiq Shahriari Ashar also expressed the desire to learn from Bangladesh's experience in family planning programmes for replication in their own country.

The Iranian delegation members were especially interested in the successful experiences in strong government commitment, Government-NGO collaboration, community participation, strong IEC activities for reproductive health and family planning and also the steps taken for essential obstetric care.

Although the protocol is to make a prior appointment and then hand over an invitation card, but it was not maintained. Even, none of the personal staff of the Leader of the Opposition was contacted, it claimed.

The press release also denied a report that a Brigadier had handed over another invitation card for the Leader of the Opposition on November 10.

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## Workshop on vegetable nursery

## Produce more vegetables to alleviate poverty'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a workshop yesterday underscored the need for increasing vegetable production in the country to alleviate poverty and malnutrition.

They observed that low per capita vegetable consumption was one of the main reasons for malnutrition in the society. According to a paper presented at the workshop, the per capita vegetable consumption in the country is only around 50 grams against the standard of minimum 200 grams set by FAO.

Speakers said that vegetable production must be increased manifold to meet local demand. At present, local entrepreneurs are producing only 300 tonnes of quality seeds against a demand of 3000 tons, the workshop was told.

Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre (AVRDC) is organising the two-day workshop in collaboration with USAID at a city hotel.

The opening session was addressed by Dr D P Singh, senior horticulturist of AVRDC. Dr M A Razzaque, director general of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BAR) and Richard Rousseau of USAID.

The speakers noted that the quality of 80 per cent of vegetable seeds used in the country is poor. They observed that vegetable production could be increased manifold through usage of high yielding varieties.

The northern districts including Thakurgaon, Dinajpur

and Panchagarh, because of its meteorological advantage, being less vulnerable to flood, cyclone and other natural calamities, can be an ideal place for cultivating such varieties round the year to meet local demand as well as for export, they pointed out.

Dr Kazi M Bodruddoza and Dr Abul Kashem chaired two technical sessions of the workshop on "Development of Entrepreneurship in Vegetable Nursery and Seed Business in Bangladesh." Research papers were presented by Seraj A Chowdhury, Habibur Rahman, Quazi Tofazzal Hossain, Dr S M Monowar Hossain Babu Mirza, Ayub Hossain and B I Siddique.

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The BAR director general in his paper said that at present we get two million tonnes of vegetables from four lakh hectares of land. "It is half of the yield in other countries of the region and one-fourth of that obtained in China, Korea and Japan," he said.

He noted that there has not been much research in this regard in the private sector. BAR has released more than 35 varieties of different vegetables and more are in the pipeline, he said.



This woman makes a living by selling foods to day-labourers on the street side in Karwan Bazar area. Rates vary from Tk 10 to 12 for a single meal. —Star photo by Amran Hossain

## Discussion meet held on Jail Killing Day

Participants at a discussion on "M Mansoor Ali and the 24th Jail Killing Day" yesterday urged pro-liberation and democratic forces to forge unity against evil forces who are trying to destroy the spirit of the Liberation War and destabilise the country, reports BSS.

They said that the four national leaders, who successfully led the War of Liberation in 1971 under the leadership of Bangabandhu were assassinated in captivity as they did not compromise with their killers.

Held in Sufia Kamal auditorium of the National Museum, the discussion was organised by Shaheen Mansoor Ali Smriti Sangsad. It was presided over by Khondakar Asaduzzaman, adviser to the prime minister on Liberation War and Ministry of Establishment.

It was addressed, among others, by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Awami League Presidium Member Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq, Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammad Selim MP, National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and Director General of the Bangla Academy Syed Anwar Hossain.

The speakers said that the anti-liberation forces killed the four national leaders only to destroy the ideals of Bangabandhu.

In this respect, he described how a businessman here has to bear more cost. While 1,600 US dollar is to be spent to send a jute container from Chittagong to Brussels, it costs only 900 US dollar from Calcutta.

Similarly, one investor here has to pay Tk 81 to make a phone call to USA, but in India it is only Tk 40, he said.

In his annual report, the FBCCI president identified some 30 problems that stand on the way to boosting the country's economy.

Listing FBCCI steps in resolving problems of the business as well as the bid to boost international trade, Mintoo stressed regional and sub-regional economic cooperation among Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, northeastern states of India, and the Chinese provinces nearest to Bangladesh.

In this respect, he mentioned the visits of FBCCI delegation to a number of countries and participation in international investment forums and seminars.

The AGM was also addressed by FBCCI vice president M A Mumtin, Akbar Ali, Mainuddin Manik, Jahangir Alam, Amir Hossain Khan, Manjur Ahmed, Moslemuddin Ahmed, Mir Nasir Hossain, A Rouf Chowdhury, Delwar Hossain, Abu Kashem Ahmed, Shahjada Mia, Nazrul Islam, Shahidul Islam Milon, Khodadad Ahmed, A K M Shamsuddoha, Khrusht Ali Mollah, Delwar Hossain, S U Haider, Iqbal Jamal Jewel, Abdul Rahman and Yusuf Ashraf.

Earlier, the meeting observed one minute's silence in honour of the late poet and prayed for salvation of her departed soul.

The BNP statement said that a messenger, whose identity could not be known, left the invitation card with the private security personnel at the gate of Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence on November 10.

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