

News

What's on today....

Seminar: Engineers Institution, Bangladesh (IEB) Dhaka Centre organises a seminar on "Traffic Management in Dhaka Metropolis -Today's burning issue". Chief guest: Alhaj Makbul Hossain, MP. Venue: Seminar room, Ramma. Time: 3:30 pm.

Birthday reception: National Museum will accord a reception to internationally acclaimed artist Shahabuddin to mark his 50th birthday. Venue: Main auditorium of National Museum. Time: 5:00 pm.

Film show: The High Commission of India in association with Chalachitram Film Society will screen Lawrence of Arabia starring Sir Alec Guinness. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission, House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

CJFD roundtable: Chittagong Journalists Forum-Dhaka (CJFD) will hold a roundtable on "Construction of a Tunnel under the river Karnaphuli and its national perspective." Chief guest: Communications Minister Anwar Hossain. Venue: VIP lounge of National Press Club. Time: 3:00 pm.

Lecture: The 11th Nazma Jesmin Memorial Lecture will be held. Venue: Auditorium of Institute of Modern Language, DU campus. Time: 4:00 pm.

Film show: Chalachitram Film Society will hold a screening of European films under the title "Focus on European films." On the 1st day "The Ecstatic World of the Film Maker Werner Herzog" by Peter Buchka and Aguirre, Wrath of God by Werner Herzog will be screened.

Venue: Goethe Institut, House no 10, Rd no 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:00 pm & 6:30 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy falls at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal and Rajshahi divisions may also occur during the period, the Met Office said.

The day temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country.

Yesterday highest temperature of 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Sathkhira and the lowest 24.5 degree Celsius at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:06 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.8	26.2	76	89
Chittagong	32.7	24.5	82	85
Rajshahi	32.2	26.0	92	84
Khulna	33.2	25.4	81	80
Barisal	32.0	26.0	84	80
Sylhet	32.2	26.3	85	98
Cox's Bazar	31.8	24.6	88	88

Airbus case

From page 1

After hearing both the sides, the court granted them bail.

Earlier eight others accused including Khaleda Zia, former prime minister, were granted bail from the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka.

The Bureau of Anti-corruption submitted a charge sheet to the court on September 5 accusing Khaleda Zia and nine others of embezzlement of Tk 175 crore in purchase of two airbuses during BNP's rule.

The case was filed on August 30, 1998 and a total of 37 people were shown as witnesses.

Halima Khatun wins Shishu Academy Award



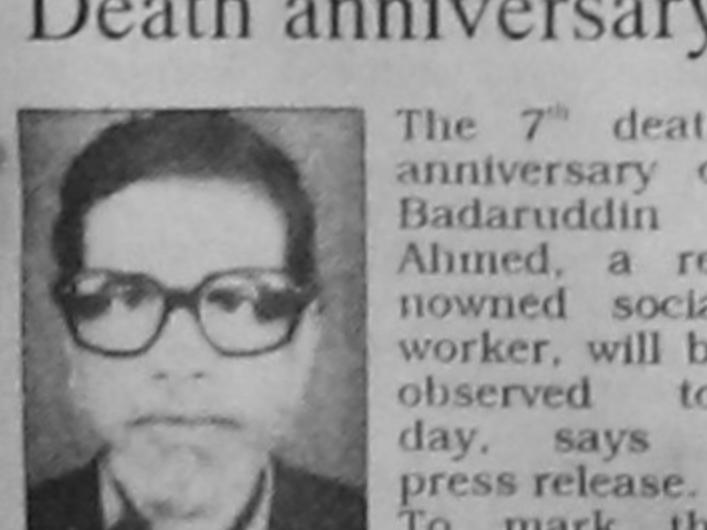
Writer Halima Khatun has been awarded the Bangladesh Shishu Academy Literary Award 1405 for her contribution to writing for the children and juveniles, says a press release.

The yearly award includes a Tk 25,000 remuneration.

Prior to this Halima has also won the Nurunessa Khatun Bidyabonodin Shahitya Purashkar in 1979, Sundarman Shahitya Conference Gold Medal in 1980, Bangla Academy Award 1981 and Shahitya Padak in 1986.

Halima, who writes mainly for children is also acclaimed widely for her poetry in English. She was a professor at the Dhaka University Study Research Centre until her retirement.

Death anniversary



The 7th death anniversary of Badruddin Ahmed, a renowned social worker, will be observed today, says a press release. To mark the occasion, Gurankhwan

and Dua Malfi will be held at his residence. Besides, food will be distributed among destitutes and special monajat will be offered at his graveyard.

Badruddin Ahmed, father of

Rafiquddin Ahmed, Assistant Director, Public Relations, WBDB, Dhaka died of cardiac arrest in 1993.



From bad to worse: The city's traffic congestion is one of the most alarming aspects of urban life. As the population of the city as well as the number of vehicles on the road keep on increasing everyday, the situation seems to be going from bad to worse. Picture shows city's Topkhana Road at noon yesterday, a scene not uncommon anymore.

- Star photo

75,300 being detained in jails with accommodation for 23,942

Overcrowding, poor conditions in prisons key topics discussed at training

By Staff Correspondent

Prisoners from lower income group number the highest among jail inmates and are neglected by traditional judiciary system, speakers said at the inaugural session of a training programme of prison officials in the city yesterday.

The programme titled "Good Prison Management for prison personnel of Bangladesh" was jointly organised by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) and Penal Reform International (PRI) at the BRAC Center Inn at Mohakhali in the city.

"At present 75,300 prisoners in the country are being kept in prisons with a capacity to 23,942 persons only," Dr Kamal Hossain said adding that the condition of Dhaka is far worse, where 9,507 prisoners are crammed in a place with a capacity for 2,632 prisoners.

The figures given out by Dr Kamal Hossain was contradicted by Liaquat Ali Khan, Additional Inspector General of Prisons, who said that the total number of prisoners in the country stood at 62,000 only.

Quoting newspaper reports Dr Kamal pointed out that "Even under trial prisoners are being kept inside the jail for more than twelve years at time.

Twenty superintendents of different jails are participating in the three-day training programme that concludes tomorrow.

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Abdul Matin Khasru, who attended the programme as chief guest said that rich people can easily come out of jails and even get better life while in custody.

"Access to justice is the key," Stephen Turner, Deputy High Commissioner of British High Commission, Dhaka said.

A large number of young men and women are being detained in jails in this country for longer duration for minor faults, Turner said.

should be made to help rehabilitate them in the society once they were released," he added.

Overcrowding in prisons is a problem common not only the developing countries but also the developed ones. Lack of adequate facilities leads to unhygienic conditions for prisoners. Poor supply of food, water, vocational training etc at times lead to violence in prison, the minister pointed out.

The government took up a programme in 1999 to reduce overcrowding in the nine central, 55 district and 16 thana jails, the minister said.

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The prisoners should be engaged in work suitable to their physique and health. They should also be receive wages for their labour. Arrangements

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New fertiliser may bring good harvest of betel leaf

By Staff Correspondent

The 12 public universities in the country turned out more than 1.27 lakh graduates and postgraduates in 1998, of which the vast majority is non-technical, reports UNB.

OPEC

From page 1

agreed to meet again Nov 12 to reassess market conditions.

Algerian Oil Minister Chakib Khelil and Qatar Oil Minister Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah confirmed the increase, which adds 800,000 barrels, or 3 per cent, to OPEC's current official production of 25.4 million barrels a day.

The boost in production will provide no more than 100,000 fresh barrels of oil to world markets, analysts said. OPEC members already are producing at least 700,000 barrels above their current quotas.

Explaining different aspects of the locally-developed organic fertiliser, Faruq said that it will be effective in increasing the production of crops and in protecting the plant from attack of various diseases.

He said that the country needed large-scale production of organic fertilisers because the developed worlds are likely to impose a ban on import of vegetable items produced by

chemical fertilisers.

Faruq said different brands of chook-chook have been developed on the basis of requirements of the plants. For example chook-chook-102 gives good results for betel leaf while chook-chook-111 for rice, chook-chook-150 for potato and chook-chook-170 for flowers and fruits.

This is for the first time a fertiliser has been developed specially for betel leaf which is a commercial crop.

Betel leaf farmers have achieved good results after use of chook-chook fertilizer in trials. It gave a good harvest and also helped the plants against diseases.

Trial production of the betel leaf was conducted as many as 78 upazilas in 18 districts using chook-chook-102 and farmers obtained positive results in each case. On the other hand trial production in potato field was carried out in Munshiganj and Bogra.

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