

What's on today....

Meeting: Bangladesh Khadya Karmachari Parishad will hold a meeting. Venue: Khadya Bhaban, 16 Abdul Gani Road. Time: 9.00 am.

UAP orientation: The University of Asia Pacific (UAP) will hold its orientation programme for freshers of the fall 2000 semester. Venue: UAP administrative building premises, House No 73, Rd No 5A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 10.00 am.

IUBAT orientation: The 24th orientation programme of the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will be held. Venue: Academy for Planning and Development, Nilkhet. Time: 3.00 pm.

Demonstration: Projonmo '71, an organisation of the children of the martyrs of the Liberation War will hold a token hunger strike and demonstration for its various demands including immediate execution of verdict in Bangabandhu Murder Case, hanging of Liberation War criminal Golan Azam and his associates. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 11.00 am-2.00 pm.

Rabindra Sangeet presentation: AKM Mizanur Rahman will present Rabindra Sangeet at his first solo programme. Chief guest: Noted Rabindra Sangeet Exponent Kalam Shara. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House No 510, Rd No 7, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 7.00 pm.

Seminar: Rem Ltd in association with IHTTI-School of Hotel Management in Switzerland, will hold a seminar. Venue: Top of the Park of Hotel Sheraton. Time: 7.00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

CPD workshop: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in association with Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL) of Canada will inaugurate a 3-day long Policy Appreciation Workshop on "WTO and Bangladesh". Chief guest: Minister for Industry Tofail Ahmed. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, 17 Topkhana Road. Time: 9.30-10.30 am.

Weather

Temperature may rise

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

Day temperature may rise by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over the country during the period. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.4 degree Celsius at Madaripur and the lowest 22.4 degree Celsius at Rangpur and Saverdip.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:54 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:48 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 |
| Dhaka | 33.4 | 25.7 |
| Chittagong | 34.0 | 24.5 |
| Rajshahi | 25.4 | 23.8 |
| Khulna | 33.7 | 23.2 |
| Barisal | 32.2 | 24.0 |
| Sylhet | 33.3 | 25.4 |
| Cox's Bazar | 34.0 | 25.5 |

HERE and THERE

Gono-Sangskriti Convention

The convention-2000 of Gono-Sangskriti Front, a federation of 21 progressive cultural organisations across the country, began yesterday in the auditorium of National Press Club reports BSS.

Presided over by Hydar Akbar Khan Juno, the convention was addressed, among others, by Faraz Ahmed, Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Kamal Lohani, Kazi Nuruzzaman, Shawkat Ali, Syed Abdul Maksud, Abu Bakar Siddiq, Basir Ali-Helal and Nurunabi Siddiqui.

The speakers emphasised that the progressive cultural activities can play a vital part for the protection and flourishing of national culture against the aggression of detrimental foreign culture.

Kamruddin Absar, secretary, Gono-Sangskriti Front conducted the function.

Bangladesh Neonatal Society

The Bangladesh Neonatal Society (BNS) yesterday underscored the need for improving the health services by under-

taking more researches, clinical information exchange scheme and broadening the network, reports BSS.

The members of BNS emphasised this at their first clinical meeting held at Ganoshasthya Nagar Hospital in the city.

They discussed cases of draptirumatic hernia, pneumothorax and bilateral renal vein thrombosis from Dr. Salahuddin Hospital and Dhaka Central Hospital. Dr. Salahuddin and Dr. A. Kabir presented the case report. Dr. AK Azad, Head of Neonatology of Dhaka Shishu Hospital presided.

Prof Azad underlined the need for more intensive exchange of information and case reports among the neonatologists in the city for improving the quality of health services in this very vital sector.

Dr. Salahuddin expressed his optimism that if such interactive discussion sessions were organised, not only the paediatricians and post-graduate students, but also neonatologists would be benefited enormously.

BNS officials said they would organise such meetings at different hospitals to enhance the cooperation among the neonatologists and other colleagues of the health service.

Accused escapes from custody: 3 cops suspended at Bogra

BOGRA, Sept 22: Three policemen were suspended for negligence of duty on Thursday night as an illegal drug trader escaped from their custody, reports UNB.

They are Akhlak, Ali Hossain and Likat.

Police said drug-trader, Liton, who was undergoing treatment at Bogra Mohanmud Ali Hospital escaped the hospital bluffing the policemen who were on duty.

Plainclothes men arrested Liton, of Sutrapur Kasaipara in the town, from his house on Sunday night and got him admitted to the hospital the following day.

Liton took permission from the policemen to go to latrine.

One of the constables was gossiping with Liton's wife while the accused going to bathroom, said an eyewitness.

Suddenly, a number of accomplices of Liton attacked the two other policemen and snatched him at gunpoint.

Police arrested Liton's wife, his four brothers and father-in-law on Thursday night.

Obituary

A.Y. Ziauddin (Manju), a prominent businessman, died of heart attack in the city yesterday. He was 61.

His namaj-e-janaza will be held at the Dhammond Eidgah Maidan after Zohr prayers today.

Manju was the eldest son of late A.K.M. Hafizuddin, a former minister, Inspector General of Police and president of EPIDC.

Liquor tragedy Death toll rises to 3 in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Sept 22: The death toll from liquor poisoning tragedy rose to three after one more person died at Satkhira sadar hospital at midnight Thursday night, reports BSS.

Doctors said the latest victim was Rajul Das, a resident of bordering Bhoma village under sadar thana here.

Two other victims including the local Union Parishad Chairman Ranjot Kumar Ghose died yesterday after they returned from other side of the border where they were reportedly entertained by an Indian friend at north Chhabis Pargana district.

Ghose and three of his companions went to visit the friend identified as Ramesh Sardar at Ghojadanga village under the Indian district after crossing the border illegally on the day.

Police and witnesses said the trouble began following an altercation between Munir, a grocer and one of the terrorists.

The terrorists attacked Munir's shop and ransacked it. Several hundred villagers equipped with lathi rushed to the spot when they came to know that the terrorists attacked the grocer of the village.

In the face of strong resistance, the terrorists opened fire, leaving Mollai, one of the villagers, injured with bullet.

Later, the villagers caught two of the gang - Masud Khan-daker, 28, and Rana Sheikh, 25, along with a sawed-off rifle and shatter gun.

They were handed over to police.

A case was filed with Sadar thana in this connection.

Fauzia

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meet, expressed their dissatisfaction over poor cooperation and management of the team officials.

Two swimmers Karar Samedul and Doly Akhter claimed that team officials gave them a very short notice of 24 hours on Sept 19 to leave Sydney but they refused to go alone without any official.

After the day's event, all the Bangladesh sportsmen except sprinter Mahub Alam made an early exit from the ongoing edition of the Olympics.

SAT Games gold medalist Mahub will complete in men's 200-metre sprint in the heat of September 27.



Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury giving away certificate to an IBA graduate. The convocation of the graduates of Institute of Business Administration's (IBA) 32nd MBA and 4th BBA batch was held at the TSC auditorium yesterday afternoon.

- Star photo

IBA graduation ceremony held

By DU Correspondent

The graduation ceremony of the fourth BBA and 32nd MBA batches of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University was held at the TSC auditorium yesterday.

Chaired by the Director of IBA Prof Nurur Rahman, the function was also attended by university's faculty members, graduates and their parents, student and a large number of guests from business community.

President of Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh, Waliur Rahman Bhuiyan attended the ceremony as special guest.

Addressing the function as chief guest, Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury stressed the need for upgrading both qualitative and quantitative standard of education.

Later, the VC distributed certificates among the 123 graduates.

India likely to be free of polio by year end

NEW DELHI, Sept 22: India is likely to be free of polio patients by the end of this year, but it will take another five years to ensure the virus is completely eradicated, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the government said today, reports Reuters.

"From over 30,000 cases a year, we have come down to 121 cases this year," Robert Kim Farley, WHO representative in New Delhi, told a news conference.

"Success is at hand, we must stay the course and give the final push," he added.

Polio is a highly infectious disease which mainly afflicts children below the age of three. The virus invades the nervous system and can cause paralysis.

Widely endemic on five continents in 1988, polio is now

found only in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian sub-continent.

"Our aim is to achieve zero transmission by the end of 2000 and to eradicate it by 2005," Shoban Sarkar, an Indian Health Ministry representative, said.

"Countries that have achieved a zero polio status are concerned about how soon India can become polio free," he added.

The global polio Technical Consultative Group (TCG) had identified India as one of 20 countries that remained at risk of continued transmission of the disease.

India is the largest consumer of the oral polio vaccine, using a staggering 1,150 million doses a year.

Donovan Bailey crashes

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after the Barbados runner matched Boldon for the fastest heat time.

"Tomorrow is going to be a hard tough race and Obadele Thompson will be my hardest competition," Greene said.

A fired up Thompson said he wanted to "win the gold for Donovan" as his close friend, suffering from the flu, fell by the wayside in his second heat.

"I didn't want to up to it to end this way because the Olympics are the ultimate," he said.

He said he wouldn't have raced but this was his Olympic title and he has never been one to back down.

US sprint queen Jones, gunning for an unprecedented five gold medals, won both her 100m heats in style clocking an impressive 10.83 secs in the second round.

Cathy Freeman, looking a sure bet in the 400m after defending champion Marie-Jose Perec fled the Games, was equally impressive in her heat, although upstaged by little known Indian athlete KM Beena Mol.

Mol was the fastest women's 400m qualifier in a pillar-to-post performance.

"I just can't believe it," she said. "I just decided to put my head down and run it as fast as I could."

"I never expected to even get through the first round!" Polish walker Robert Korzeniowski was gifted the first all-time gold when Mexican Bernardo Segura was disqualified long after he had completed his post-race celebrations having crossing the line first in the 20km walk.

The judges ruled he had a third and final infraction in the last 400m.

Arsi Harju of Finland was the surprise winner in the men's shot put, the first field event title, with a best heave of 21.29m to leave the United States pair Adam Nelson and

John Godina in his wake.

In the men's 400m, Michael Johnson showed why he is regarded as practically invincible over the one-lap, describing his 45.25 sec heat time as "just a try out."

Australia's ambition of ending the United States swimming supremacy fell completely apart today, as the Americans won a further three golds, two in one event, to Australia's none.

The crack US squad, now with 12 golds to Australia's four in the water, had Brooke Bennett won the women's 800m freestyle before Anthony Ervin and Gary Hall dead-headed for gold in the men's 50m free.

Pieter van den Hoogenband, the Flying Dutchman with two gold medals and two world records at the Games, could do no better than third.

The Dutch dolphin de Bruijn cracked her third world record in the semi-finals of the women's 50m free, flying through the one length dash in 24.13 sec.

Australia's hopes came further unstuck when Sweden's Lars Frölander shocked world record-holder Michael Klim in the final of the 100m butterfly.

It was left to Kieron Perkins, attempting to win the 1500m freestyle gold for the third consecutive Games, to restore some local pride as the fastest qualifier for the final.

The American men's tennis campaign crumbled with Jeff Tarango the last of the singles and doubles players to fall by the wayside.

In women's singles though, Venus Williams reached the last eight with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Germany's Jana Kandarr, and next plays Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain the last player to beat Williams - 29 matches ago.

Chinese badminton duo Gong Zhichao and Ji Xinpeng left Danish lovebirds Peter Gade and Camilla Martin heartbroken Friday after scoring stunning Olympic singles victories to dash the Dances' double gold

medal dreams.

Gong played magnificently to defeat world champion Martin 13-10, 11-3 in the women's final, while men's world number one Gade was dumped out by Ji in the men's semifinals.

The Bulgarian weightlifting squad was sent packing following two further positive dope tests on its lifters, women's 48kg gold medalist Izabela Draguleva and 62kg bronze medalist Sevdalin Minchev.

The exit under the International Weightlifting Federation's "three strikes and out" policy, followed the expulsion of men's 56kg class silver medalist Ivan Ivanov earlier in the week.

The drug scandal overshadowed the women's 75kg and over final where Ding Meiyuan, dubbed "the strongest woman in the world" eventually won out over Pole Agata Wrobel after a fascinating duel in which they set a total of eight world records.

Sutrapur murder

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Monwara Begum, mother of Mohsin had alleged that the police inspectors of the Sutrapur police station had refused to rescue her son and his friend Saem despite repeated requests. Her statement was corroborated by a section of local people who said that Sumon, principal accused in the murder case, is a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League and also son of a ruling party ward commissioner.

The DB officials investigating the murder case refused to make any comment when asked whether the suspended policemen are likely to be charged for the murder as well.

DMP Commissioner Matur Rahman, however, said last night that another inquiry was in the process against the suspended police officials to probe whether they were involved in any criminal activities in the case. Charges would be brought against them on the basis of the findings of the inquiry, the commissioner said.

Meanwhile, five of the seven persons arrested in connection with the murder of two teenage boys were produced in the CMM's Court yesterday.

Two of them remained for one day while the rest was sent to jail.

5 hurt as rival groups clash at Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 22: At least five people were injured, one of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups in front of Natun Bazar police outpost at Bagura road in the town this afternoon.

According to police and witnesses, two rival groups clashed as sequel to previous enmity over control of a club.

The clashing groups exploded hand bombs, chased each other during the clash at about 5 pm.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Children's art exhibition opens at Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 22: A five-day long children's art exhibition began today at the local press club, reports BSS.

Eminent artist Shawkat Jahan arranged the exhibition with works by students of five art schools in order to introduce their paintings to the people.

Chittagong Mayor ABM Mo-hiuddin Chowdhury attended the inaugural function of the exhibition as the chief guest.

Prof SM Ansar Ali, former chairman of Fine Arts Department of Chittagong University spoke, among others, at the inaugural function while senior vice-president of the press club Helal Uddin Chowdhury was in the chair.

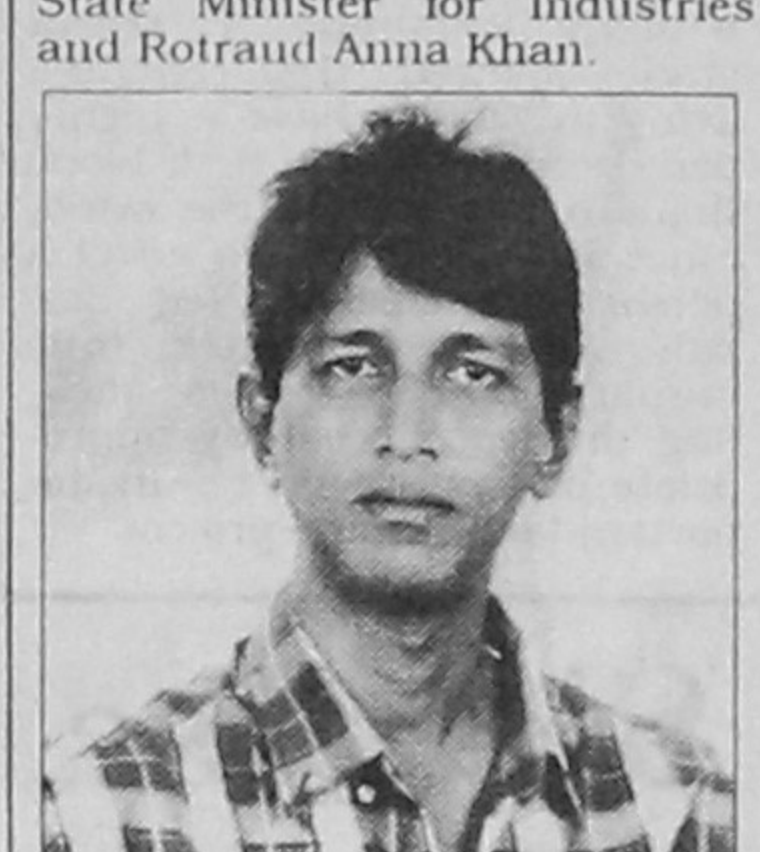
Works of a total of 400 children have been put on display.

Congratulations



Rabeya Khan of SFX Greenherald International School obtained 'A' grades in GCE O level examination from Cambridge University in 8 subjects and from London University in 1 subject, says a press release.

She is the daughter of Lutfor Rahman Khan, MP and former State Minister for Industries and Roitrad Anna Khan.



Rhythmist Anjur Liton has won the 'M Nurul Quader Juvenile Literature Award 2000' for his book 'Goodbye Badboy', a collection of rhymes, says a press release.

Parijat Prokashani is the publisher of this book.

The award was given away at a function, held recently at Shishu Academy with chairperson of the Foundation Rokeya Quader in the chair.

The function was attended, among others, by Dr Anisuzzaman as chief guest, artist Hasem Khan as special guest, Golam Kibria, Director of the Academy and artist Kalidash Karmakar.

New US envoy

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Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in 1993 with oversight responsibility for US relations with 19 Western European countries and Canada.

She is fluent in six languages. She served in Sofia, Bulgaria as Deputy Chief of Mission, in Moscow as Economic Counsellor, in Myanmar as Principal Officer and in Frankfurt as Vice Consul. From 1988 to 1990, Peters was the Deputy Director of Office of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh Affairs in the State Department.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California-Santa Clara.

The arrival of the new ambassador was delayed due to delay in Senate confirmation, generally viewed as a normal process. Chris Webster was serving as the Chargé d'affaires, ad interim.

The US Embassy in Dhaka was established on May 18, 1972 with Herbert D Spivack as Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Daniel O Newberry succeeded him in October 1972 and continued till April 1974.

Hermann F Ellis was named the first US Ambassador to Bangladesh and was appointed on Sept 11, 1972. But he declined to take up his appointment for unknown reason.

David Eugene Boster was appointed the second ambassador, but he was the first to take up his assignment in Bangladesh. He served from February 28, 1974 to September 10, 1976.

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Sumon: Ershad Shikder

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courage to speak out against crime.

Over the last six months 34 murder cases have been filed with the police. Others who survived attempts on their lives didn't dare inform the police.

Victims of intimidation, mugging, physical assault, robbery and numerous other criminal acts consider themselves lucky to be alive and look the other way when similar incidents occurs before them.

Incidence of murder in Sutrapur area, among other crimes, has assumed phenomenal proportions. People blame police for nurturing crimes and criminals.

"There is no dearth of killers in this area, you can recruit them anytime, anywhere," admitted a police sub-inspector of the Sutrapur police station.

There are banners overhead along dilapidated lanes and by-lanes, demanding trials for recent murders. Friends and families of Shahid, Mondal, Babul, Babul, Ronnie, Habib, Bulbul and numerous others killed still wait to see justice dispensed.

With the blessing of his influential mother who is an AL leader and reportedly known to the PM, and the police Sumon had the audacity to torture the boys before hundreds of people. He enjoyed total control of the once prestigious Rifle Club. He knew the police would never 'say anything'.

Local people said the Rifle Club, on an area of more than 1.5 bighas, used to be the mark of prestige for the area. Sumon with his gang forcibly took over the club in 1996 and set up a personal office there. Sumon built a throne in the club and regularly sat there to act as a 'judge'.

He conducted trials and handed down punishments. The 'trials' at the Rifle Club were termed as *shahi bi-char* meaning royal justice, and attracted crowds of innocent people.

On many occasions, police officials from the Sutrapur thana were seen tending such courts with Sumon in the throne.

"God knows how many people were handed down death penalty in the Rifle Club 'court'. On the day of the last BNP hartal, two pairs of human hands and legs were recovered from the same manhole. The body of that victim was never found," said a resident, requesting anonymity for obvious reasons.

At around 10 am last Tuesday, when we visited the area, the narrow streets of Sutrapur were already clogged with rickshaws and pull carts. Stranded rickshaw passengers looked on helplessly as several volunteers tried to untie a seemingly impossible knot of traffic. Few pedestrians struggled to protect their clothing from mud and stagnant sludge on the congested thoroughfare. Some held a handkerchief on their nose to escape from the unbearable stink of the nearby dustbin.

Access to Sutrapur thana premises, built during British rule, was restricted to a two-foot wide muddy passage with two deep excavations on both sides. Construction of a six-story thana building is now underway and it is likely to continue for 18 months.

"Over the last two months that I have been here to oversee the construction, I have seen victims of utmost brutalities and crimes of the area coming to the thana. It is simply frustrating," said the young site engineer.

At 12 noon, the incumbent Officer-in-Charge of Sutrapur thana, Abu Henia Mostafa Kamal, sat inside his cramped office and frankly admitted that police negligence was greatly responsible for the killing of two young men at the Rifle Club on Saturday.

"Sutrapur has become so crime-prone because all its streets are narrow, broken-down and always clogged with rickshaws," Kamal continued, "it is impossible for the police to intervene on time or even catch the criminals as they vanish."

"We would have no ground to take the matter to court had we not formed a cooperative," he said. The source said a top engineer of the DCC is helping the occupiers to remain where they are now. As part of the deal, an Awami League office has been allowed in the park.

DCC Zone-6 officials were stationed in Karwan Bazar also confirmed that the Estate Department had a big hand in creating a total anarchy in the area. One official requesting anonymity said the Assistant Estate Officer has masterminded most of the 'illegal businesses' in the city.

A Zone-6 official said that as normal procedure for eviction of illegal occupants they had to send a note to the Estate Department at Nagar Bhaban, which, in turn, takes action. "You can check out the files. We've sent dozens of such notes to the Estate Department, but there has never been any action whatsoever."

In the process, they have involved people like Kahu Chhadri alin Din Islam, and Bashir who are both Awami League leaders of Ward-39 and have built an illegal party office inside the park," said a source.