

## Metropolitan

## Meena Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The Meena Day-2000 will be observed in a festive mood throughout Bangladesh today. Children in 64 districts will participate in plays and dramas, songs, painting, quiz and essay competitions, sports, rallies, enjoy fairs, exhibitions, cultural events and film shows.

Meena Mela will be held in many districts for two to three days where Meena materials will be displayed. For and for the Asian girls, Meena was created in UNICEF Bangladesh to represent the South Asian girl. Meena stands for basic education, gender equity, self-esteem, self-confidence, rights, early childhood care and promotes all the positive values that enable a girl child to reach their full potential.

Meena Day is observed to uphold the spirit of Meena, who has over the years, become a powerful icon of the South Asian girls. Meena was created in UNICEF Bangladesh to represent the South Asian girl. Meena stands for basic education, gender equity, self-esteem, self-confidence, rights, early childhood care and promotes all the positive values that enable a girl child to reach their full potential.

Bangladesh sees persistent manifestations of gender discrimination in schools including favouritism for boys, gender stereo typing and poor facilities for girls. Malnutrition and morbidity rates are higher among girls and women. Approximately half of women in Bangladesh are less than 18 when they marry resulting in drop-out and 20 per cent girls become mothers by the age of 15.



Meena, icon of the girl-child's rights in South Asia

In Dhaka city, elaborate programmes have been planned in Engineers Institute jointly organised by UNICEF and Shishu Adhikar Forum. The discussion on Meena will be participated by Prof Zinatun Nesa Talukder, Minister of State for Women and Children's Affairs as chief guest. M Azizul Haque, a member of the BSAP advisory committee and Jun Kukita, UNICEF Senior Programme Coordinator as special guests.

## 600-bed modern hospital to be built at Khilgaon

A modern general hospital with special facilities for the treatment of kidney and cancer patients will be built at a cost of Tk 50 crore at Khilgaon in the city under the aegis of Sabuj Miti Trust, reports BSS.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, said the construction of the 600-bed hospital is likely to start by February next year.

Saber Hossain, who is the chairman of the Trust, was exchanging views with journalists at the Trust office yesterday.

Initially, the hospital will work as a diagnostic centre and eventually it will be run under "cost recovery scheme" to give benefits to the poor patients by charging the wealthy ones.

Saber Hossain also said the construction of a flyover in the city will start by end of the year.

He hoped that the fly-over, to be built at a cost of Tk 70 crore, will help ease traffic jam and facilitate movement of vehicles from Baridhara, Rampura and Khilgaon areas to Motijheel. Tender for the flyover will be floated within next month, he said.

The Deputy Minister said he is trying to build the first public graveyard in his constituency.

Referring to the activities of the Trust which runs Sabuj Miti Shastha Seba, he said nearly 28,000 people received outdoor treatment and diagnostic help at cheaper rate.

## German film show from tomorrow

By DU Correspondent

A four-day-long German film show will begin tomorrow at the Goethe Institut in the city as part of the World Film Manifestation Programme (WFMP).

A total of eight movies by veteran German filmmakers including Wim Wenders will be screened.

The films are 'Lisbon Story', 'Kings of the Road', 'Until the End of the World', 'Tokyo-Ga', 'No More Mr Nice Guy', 'Comedian Harmonists', 'The Last Honour of Catharina Blum' and 'It's a Jungle Out There'. The show is open for all.

## Hawkers League leader shot in city

By Staff Correspondent

Unidentified gunmen allegedly shot Tota Mia, 40, Vice President of Motijheel Hawkers League, in front of Bangladesh Bank in the city yesterday noon.

According to the witnesses, some unidentified men demanded toll while he was selling shirts on the footpath. When Tota, son of Baser Mia, refused to give toll, they fired a gunshot in his belly.

He is the resident of 120, Mughdipara.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with critical condition.

## Couple die of cardiac arrest within 9 hrs

From Our Correspondent

NAKAYANGANJ, Sept 23: A couple died of cardiac arrest within a span of nine hours here.

They are Md Jasimuddin Ahmed, 57, an assistant professor of Narayanganj Govt Tolaram College, and his wife Fatema Khatun, 49.

Jasimuddin Ahmed, who had been suffering from heart disease, died at 6:30 pm on Friday. His wife had been overcome with grief and she died at 3:30 am today.

They are survived by two sons and two daughters.

## JU Puja holiday from Oct 4

By JU Correspondent

Classes at Jahangirnagar University will remain closed from October 4 to 12 on the occasion of Durga Puja and Laxmi Puja, official sources said.

Official work at the university will remain suspended on October 7, 8 and 12 on the same occasion.

All academic and administrative activities will resume on October 14.

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TOEFL 550+, GRE 600+ SAT 1200+ এবং GMAT 500+ এর 100% গ্যারান্টি জগদীশ্বর কোর্স কি ফেল্ডের নিশ্চিত চুক্তি।  
MBA & BBA MODEL TEST  
TOEFL : 05/10/2000  
GMAT : OPEN  
SAT/BBA : OPEN  
GRE/MBA : OPEN



Pranjanmo '71 held a token hunger strike at the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding immediate execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu Murder Case and trial of war criminal Golam Azam and his associates. Family members of martyred freedom fighters participated in the programme.

## Projanmo '71 demands execution of Verdict in Bangabandhu Murder Case

Projanmo '71, an organisation of the children of martyred freedom fighters, yesterday observed a three-hour token hunger strike on the National Press Club premises demanding execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu Murder Case, trial of the killers of four national leaders and trial of war criminal Golam Azam and his associates, reports BSS.

More than 100 children of martyred freedom fighters participated in the hunger strike to mobilise support in favour of holding trial of the war criminals in the country.

After the hunger strike, they brought out a procession demanding implementation of the verdict of Bangabandhu Murder Case and holding trial of all war criminals who were involved in the barbaric killings, rape and arson during the country's War of Liberation in 1971.

General Secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) Hasanul Huq Inu, President Member of Communist Party of Bangladesh Moshed Ali, Convener of Jatiya Samanay Committee Syed Hasan Inam, Secretary General Prof Abdul Mannan, General Secretary of Bangladesh Teachers Association Chowdhury Khorsheed Alam and General Secretary of Chhatra Union Sharifuzzaman

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## Jagannath Hall ex-students meet tomorrow

By DU Correspondent

A meeting of the former students of Jagannath Hall of the Dhaka University will be held tomorrow evening at the place of worship at the hall to discuss the celebration of Durgotsab this year.

The meeting will be presided over by the hall provost Prof Durgadas Bhattacharya.

The former students have been requested to attend the meeting.

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## Sharif expressed solidarity with Projanmo '71 by joining the programme

By Staff Correspondent

Besides, Chairman of Central Command Council of Bangladesh Mukti Juddha Sangsad Principal Ahad Chowdhury, Chairman of Mukti Juddha Sanghati Parishad Col (ret'd) Hawkat Ali, MP, and Sector Commander Major General (ret'd) K M Shafiqullah, MP, also expressed solidarity with the programme by sending messages to the Projanmo '71.

JSD leader Hasanul Huq Inu while expressing solidarity with Projanmo '71 said anti-democratic forces had emerged on the country's political scene after the brutal assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. "The killing of Bangabandhu is a black chapter in the history of Bangladesh," he said.

He called upon Bangladesh Awami League and the opposition BNP not to give party nomination to war criminals and the killers of freedom fighters. He also demanded immediate execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu Murder Case.

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## WFP food aid should be utilised for "ultra poor"

Outgoing representative says

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh should utilise World Food Programme's food aid to ensure more food for its 30 million 'ultra poor' as the country's food supply position has increased now, the outgoing WFP representative has said.

"Food assistance should be utilised for those who need it most and can use it best for their sustainable development," Dr Werner Kienle told a press conference here on Thursday.

The food "surplus" in the country is not "real surplus. It (surplus) exists because the poor can not afford to purchase what they need," he said.

He said the WFP in its food assistance to Bangladesh during 2001-2005 will focus more on ensuring food for the 'ultra poor' through an area-based approach. WFP will concentrate on its activities in regions where food insecurity is a problem.

The new programme will help reduce the food deficit and bring the 30 million ultra-poor under food security," Kienle said. Alongside VGD, the people under the programme can be trained in different professions.

## One found dead in Mugdipara

An unidentified young man was found dead in an empty baby taxi at city's Mugdipara in the early hours yesterday, reports UNB.

The body bore a bullet wound on the neck, hospital sources said.

Police, acting on a tip off, rushed to the spot near South Mugdipara Community Centre at 1 am and found the body.

Residents said they rushed to the spot at midnight when the baby taxi driver raised a hue and cry after he found the dead body in this vehicle.

They said that two men were seen running away from the baby taxi.

The body was sent to DMCH for autopsy.

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## Teachers urged to help improve quality of edn

Environment and Forest Minister Syed Sajida Chowdhury yesterday urged the teachers and guardians to help improve the quality of education, reports UNB.

The present generation should be educated with qualitative and technical education to survive in the world of competition," the minister said while addressing the concluding ceremony of Education Week, 2000, organised by Nagarkanda Upazila Parishad.

She said there is no alternative to education for building a prosperous nation.

The minister said the government has attached top priority to technical education side by side general education. The literacy rate has gone up to 62 per cent for the massive programme undertaken by the government, she added.

Sajida also mentioned the stipend programme for the girl students and said the ratio of girls to boys now stands at 49:51.

The Environment Minister later distributed sports goods to different educational institutions.

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