

News

What's on today

FEJB procession: Forum of Environmental Journalists in Bangladesh will bring out a procession with a slogan "Eliminate Pollution, Save Dhaka," to call upon all to help curb pollution in the city. Venue: From in front of National Press Club. Time: 8:30 am.

Inauguration: Minister for Disaster Management and Relief will inaugurate programmes to mark International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR). Chief guest: Minister for Agriculture Begum Matia Chowdhury. Venue: CIDRAP auditorium, Channel House, Tophkhana Rd. Time: 10:00 am.

Petrobangla seminar: Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) in association with USAID will hold a seminar on Natural Gas Resources Assessment Methodology. Venue: Petrobangla Centre Seminar Hall. Time: 10:00 am.

Award giving ceremony: Dr Md Ibrahim Smriti Parishad will award scientist Prof Kazi Abul Monsur posthumously with the Dr Ibrahim Gold Medal. Chief guest: Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria. Venue: BIRDEM auditorium, BIRDEM Hospital, Shahbagh. Time: 11:30 am.

Inauguration: American Alumni Association will inaugurate its new office. Venue: House No 145, Road No 13/B, Banani. Time: 5:30 pm.

Seminar: Shobar Jonnyo Shasthyo (Health for All) will hold a seminar on "Rebels: Its Prevention and Remedy." Key note speaker: Dr S M Bazul Hossain, Infectious Diseases Hospital. Venue: Ganashastho Nagar Hospital, House No 14/E, Road No 6, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:30 pm.

Probarona Utsab 2000: Probarona Utsab 2000 will be held. Organiser: Dhaka University Buddha Chhatra Sangsad. Venue: TSC Cafeteria. Time: 4:00 pm.

Discussion meeting: Bangladesh China Friendship Association will hold a discussion meeting which will be followed by a cultural programme. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5:00 pm.

Launching ceremony: National Tea Company Ltd will hold the launching ceremony of National Tea. Chief guest: Speaker Humayun Rasheed Choudhury. Venue: Top of the Park (11th floor) Hotel Sheraton. Time: 7:30 pm

Biennial conference: The biennial conference of Jatiya Amijhi Federation Dhaka Bar Association Unit will be held. Venue: Dhaka Bar Association Tin Shied Bhaban. Time: 3 pm.

.....and tomorrow

Workshop: Civil Society Movement for Women's Empowerment will hold a half day long workshop on Increase of number of and direct election to reserved seats for women in parliament. Venue: Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium, House No 20, Rd No 16 (New) 27 (Old) Dhammondi R/A. Time: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm.

World Maritime Day: Ministry of Shipping will hold a seminar on "Expansion of flag-carrier Ships." Chief guest: Minister for Finance Shah A M S Kibria. Venue: LGED auditorium, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 10:00 am.

Inauguration: Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum (BMSF) will hold the inauguration ceremony of "HIV/AIDS Awareness Raising Via Media." Venue: Conference room of Dhaka Ahsanul Mission. House No 19 Rd No 12 (New), Dhammondi R/A. Time: 10:30 am.

Light rain forecast

Light rain or thundershowers is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Dhaka, Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over Barisal and Khulna divisions during next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 35.0 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 22.1 degree at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:36 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:54 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	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.5	23.6	76	83
Chittagong	32.9	24.5	78	75
Rajshahi	33.4	26.0	69	83
Khulna	34.0	25.5	74	77
Barisal	33.5	24.8	76	83
Sylhet	32.0	24.5	86	87
Cox's Bazar	33.9	25.5	78	85

JS body to probe CPA

From Page 1
cranes for cargo handling at the port. It also asked the CPA chairman to submit to it all documents regarding the procurement process.

Earlier, the port authorities were charged with manipulating the process of procurement of four Quay gantry cranes and a Yard gantry crane under the "Container Handling Equipment, including Gantry Cranes, Procurement Project".

The equipment are scheduled to be procured by 2002 to handle the increasing container congestion at Chittagong port.

The meeting expressed dissatisfaction over the reply from CPA Chairman Commodore Golam Rabbani to the committee. He said the Asian Development Bank guideline provided for complete confidentiality in the procurement process -- from tender bidding to issuing work order.

Raising this point, two committee members from the ruling party -- Aktheruzzaman and Mohammad Shahjahan -- questioned, "Why should we follow the ADB guideline in procuring cranes with the money from public exchequer? We will have to be accountable for spending public money," the sources mentioned.

But the CPA chairman argued that they have to follow the guidelines of ADB, which is expected to provide money for procurement of the equipment for container handling other than the cranes.

"That's why we are keeping the process secret," he told the meeting.

Committee members attending the meeting expressed annoyance that secretary of the shipping ministry was not present. The secretary was reportedly attending a meeting of the ministry.



Participants at a seminar on "Professional Security of Journalists" at the VIP lounge of National Press Club yesterday. The NPC organised the seminar as part of its 46th founding anniversary programmes. -Starphoto

Towhidul

From Page 1
Prof Anwar was the Director General of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) from 1992 to 1996. He also worked as Bangladesh Representative at the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) in Singapore.

Second son of Late Syed Md Azizur Rahman of Farhadabad in Hathajari thana, Chittagong, Prof Anwar obtained PhD from the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University. Earlier, he passed M Com in Accounting and MA in Journalism from the Dhaka University.

He joined the university as a lecturer in July 1974 and became a professor in 1992.

The namaj-e-janaja of Anwar was held at the University Central Mosque after Zohr prayers and later he was buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectual Graveyard in the city. A number of teachers, students, officials, employees of the university and political leaders took part in his janaza.

The qukhwan of Anwar will be held at his residence-59/H, Esha Khan Road, Dhaka University Quarters on Friday after Asr prayers.

CU admission Forms will be available from today

CHITTAGONG, Oct 10: Application forms for the admission in first year of 2000-2001 session will be available for different faculties under Chittagong University (CU) from tomorrow, reports BSS.

The application forms will be available at Agrani Bank branches at university campus, Newmarket, Sheikh Mujib Road and Kapasgola branches respectively.

The intending candidates can to procure application forms till October 22 and they have been asked to submit the forms from October 11 to 24 during office hours.

The admission test for the first year under MCQ system will begin from November 7 and continue till 13.

Law & order

From Page 1
limited. He was just briefed on the situation.

Replying to a question Khaleda said she met with the President as there was no communication between them for a long time.

A communique issued by Bangabhaban said Khaleda told the President that the law and order situation has deteriorated to such an extent that the people do not feel safe even in their houses.

She particularly mentioned the abduction of advocate Nurul Islam who has presumably been killed by his political opponents. But the police are not taking any action in this regard.

Khaleda expressed apprehension that if the situation continued, the forthcoming general election might be sabotaged.

She hoped that the general election will be held early next year during the dry season.

President Shahabuddin gave the BNP leaders a patient hearing and hoped that if the people belonging to all political parties cooperate, the law and order situation will certainly improve.

Khaleda condoles death of Prof Towhidul Anwar

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday condoled the death of Prof Towhidul Anwar of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University, reports BSS.

In a message, Khaleda Zia recalled the contribution of Prof Towhidul to the War of Liberation and various historic moments of the nation.

She also commended the role of the former director general of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB).

She conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Deputy Leader of Opposition Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Opposition Chief Whip Khondker Delwar Hossain also condoled the death of Prof Towhidul.

Obituary

Md Moazzem Hossain, Assistant Vice President of Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd died on the September 16 at the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital. He was 52, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of friends and admirers to mourn his death.

A Z M Shamsul Alam, Chairman of AIBL and all other employees of the Bank expressed deep shock at his sad demise and expressed deep sympathy to the members of his bereaved family.

The Bank held a Doo Ma'fil to pray for peace of his departed soul.

Amit's pacemaker implanted

From Page 1
obliged, he said. "Okay, please don't give me pain."

Assisting nurses were ready with the surgical tools on the trolley while the lights were double-checked beforehand. Extra sets of lights were kept standby in case. Earlier, a doctor inspected the operation theatre early.

The operation started precisely at 10:08 a.m. with Prof. Islam assisted by at least half a dozen experts, mostly surgeons, cut open both sides of Amit's chest. A bipolar receiver (coated with silicon rubber) connected by a wire (electrode) was inserted under the collarbone to link the inactive phrenic nerve. A radio transmitter with antenna weighing about one kilogram will be kept outside.

"It is a big event," said the surgeon emerging out of the operation theatre (OT) at about 3 in the afternoon, pointing to the fact that this is for the first time in the sub-continent that such a device was implanted on a person.

"It was one of the most disciplined surgeries and we did not have to waste a single drop of blood," he said talking to the Daily Star later.

Amit's father Mosiur Rahman, a hardware shopowner, appeared very tense. "I really cannot be relieved until the device works," he said. "I have been awake almost since last night and the nearer the operation became the more my anxiety grew."

Amit's mother, relatives and cousins were waiting anxiously outside in the lobby next to the theatre since morning with their fingers crossed. A big red banner reading "May Allah help Amit" was hung on the ninth floor lobby. Phone calls started pouring in on cell phone of Amit's father. The telephone operator of the hospital received an abnormally high number of calls.

The pacemaker is cost-effective and it enables normal breathing and speech. It has lower infection rate due to reduction in suctioning, elimination of external humidifier and venturi circuits and possibility of use of a tracheostomy tube.

Unlike conventional ventilator the pacemaker saves over 1000 dollars in maintenance cost per month. The pacemaker has a ten-year warranty and the receivers and electrodes with ten and three years warranty respectively.

Amit has been kept on sedative

at the ICU and is under close watch of the doctors. Conduction tests confined to Amit's sensation, emotion and other feelings were all right. Culture sensitivity tests were also carried out on Monday on samples of Amit's skin, nail, hair, saliva, lips, stool and chest.

Drugs and suture materials worth about Tk 10,000 were purchased Monday night for Amit's surgery.

The team of surgeons comprised neurosurgeon Prof. Rashid Uddin Ahmed, anesthesiologists Dr Moimul Hassan and Prof. K M Iqbal, ENT specialist Prof. M Alauddin and thoracic surgeon Prof. AKM Shariful Islam.

People from all walks of life including Amit's schoolmates and teachers contributed to raising funds amounting to Tk 80 lakh till date for the treatment. All the surgeons worked for free and there were no operation and hospital charges.

But tests also showed that Amit's left side is not as good as his right side.

"As we went inside the OT we carried out conduction test and the right side was quite good but the left did not behave as well as the right side," Prof. Islam said.

The device will take at least four weeks to function since the swelling from the cuts would take time to heal.

There are indications that Amit's left lung has been damaged to some extent. The lung on the left is not spongy any more; rather it has become solid, as the lungs were not in use for over a year since Amit suffered poliomyelitis attack.

Said Prof. Islam: "There is no reason to be hopeless. By physiotherapy and modulation of pacing we can train his muscles in the diaphragm to function again. With continuous efforts Amit's diaphragm movement may be restored."

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EC: Akhter

From Page 12
mentioned 11 reasons for not declaring his seat vacant and demanded a referendum on the issue in Kishoreganj-3 constituency from where he was elected in the 1996 general elections on BNP ticket.

The Speaker then referred the matter to the Election Commission for a settlement and made a special reference to Akhter's demand for a referendum.

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Bandarnaike dead

From Page 1
Kusum Rodrigo. She was taken to a nursing home, where she was pronounced dead.

"I think the entire nation has lost its mother," said Alavi Mowlana, a government minister for local affairs. "I cannot believe that she is no more."

A polling official at the school where Bandarnaike voted said the former prime minister had come to vote in a wheelchair.

"I marked her vote because she asked me to do so," said PB Puranegedara. "She also told me not to put the ink on her finger. I respected her wish. She then smiled and sort of waved and left in her wheelchair."

Bandarnaike is survived by three children: Kumaratunga Anura Bandarnaike, a senior opposition candidate; and Senethra Bandarnaike, a philanthropist who is not involved in politics.

There was no immediate comment from Kumaratunga's office about her mother's death. Funeral arrangements had yet to be announced.

Bandarnaike resigned on Aug 10, suffering from diabetes and other ailments. She told the nation that her daughter needed someone more capable of pushing proposals to end the civil war, which has claimed some 63,000 lives since 1983.

She was elected the first woman head of government on July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became India's first woman prime minister.

Born Sirimavo Ratwatte on April 17, 1916, Bandarnaike was a member of one of the Indian Ocean island's wealthiest families. In 1940, she married Solomon Dias Bandarnaike, a senior politician in the United National Party, which was governing what was then called Ceylon.

Breaking away to form his own Sri Lanka Freedom Party, her husband was elected prime minister in 1956. A deranged Buddhist monk assassinated him three years later.

Bandarnaike was transformed from a shy housewife into a political dynamo. She campaigned for her husband's party in the 1960 elections and became its leader.

She was elected the first woman head of government on July 20, 1960. Her election was so unusual that newspapers were unsure what to call her.