

● What's on today ●

FEJB procession: Forum of Environmental Journalists in Bangladesh will bring out a procession with 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: CIRDAP auditorium, Chanchi House, Topkhana 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: BIRDDEM auditorium, BIRDDEM 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 Jonnja Shastho (Health for All) will hold a seminar on "Rebics: Its Prevention and Remedy." Key note speaker: Dr S M Bazlul 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 Chowdhury. Venue: Top of the Park (11th) floor Hotel Sheraton. Time: 7:30 pm.

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

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) Dhanmondi 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, Argagao, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 10:00 am.

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

Weather: Light rain forecast

Light rain or thundershower 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 Jessor and the lowest 22.1 degree at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:36 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 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

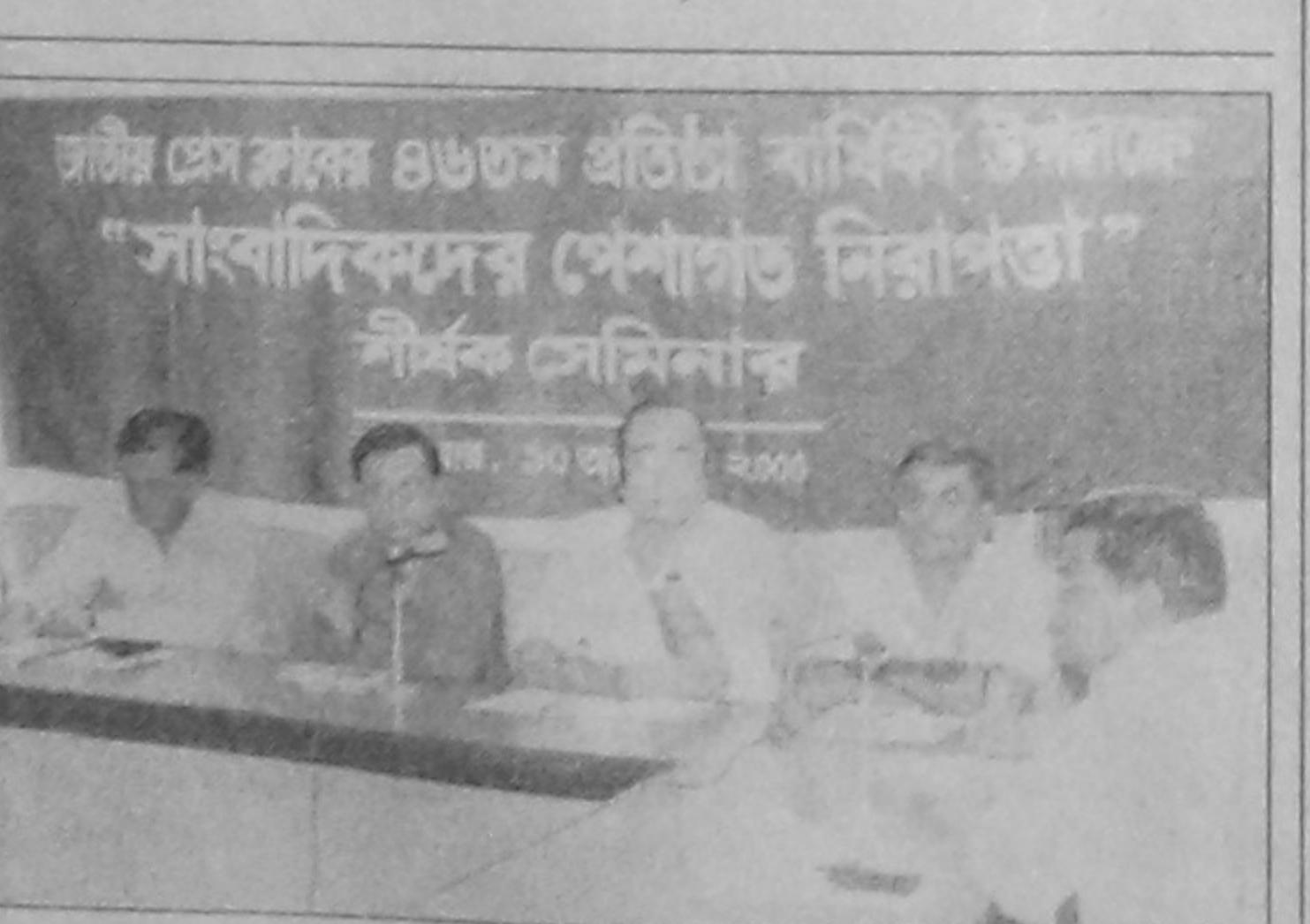
JS body to probe CPA

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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.



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. - Star photo

Towhidul

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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 Farhadaband 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-Janaza 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 quirkhwan 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 (CUI) from tomorrow, respectively.

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 time under MCQ system will begin from November 7 and continue till 13.

Law & order

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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 communiqué 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 Chairman 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 A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Opposition Chief Whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain also condoled the death of Prof Towhidul.

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.

Amit's pacemaker implanted

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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 inside 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.

Journalists from print and electronic media waited in the lobby from early in the morning.

Dr Dilys M Gore, Bio-medical Engineer from Dobelle Institute of New York who arrived in Dhaka from England a day before the critical surgery said, "The surgeons were excellent. I am very pleased with the surgery and everything went as planned."

The biggest concern now is infection.

"If Amit gets any minor infection the device may have to be withdrawn and replaced. Infection is a big risk factor now; in fact, for the rest of his life but the danger period is between now and six months. So, we won't encourage any visitor," Prof. Islam said.

Earlier, tests indicated that Amit's diaphragmatic movement is 'positive'. Diaphragm is a muscle that helps breathing involuntarily.

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."

Amit has been kept on sedative

at the ICU and is under close watch of the doctors. Conduction tests confirmed that Amit's sensation, emotion and other feelings were all right. Culture sensitivity tests were also carried out on Monday on samples of Amit's sputum, 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 neuro-surgeon Prof. Rashid Uddin Ahmed, anaesthetists Dr Moiul Hassan and Prof. M Iqbal, ENT specialist Prof. M Alauddin and thoracic surgeon Prof. A K M 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.

EC: Akhter

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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.

EC officials however said there is no scope for such a referendum on the issue of one's parliament membership. Referring to relevant rules, they said the EC would invite both the petitioner and the lawmaker concerned to attend the hearing on the dispute.

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oy is used to build laser diodes, which drive the flow of information on the Internet and are found in compact disc players, bar-code readers and laser pointers.

Kilby's work led to the microchip, which has "led to our environment being flooded with small electronic apparatuses, anything from electronic watches and TV games to mini-calculators and personal computers," according to the citation.

Reached by phone at his institute in St Petersburg, Alferov said he was excited to get the prize: "My colleagues and I are now going to uncork a bottle of champagne and celebrate."

Asked whether he expected the honour, he said, "Not really, but maybe a very little bit."

The three winners were cited for work done independently.

Current floods

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NGOs have already sought international help and according to them the government should also ask for such help.

The Prime Minister said "I do not think it is a fact because they (NGOs) can not carry food to remote flood affected areas as we are doing."

"We have taken actions against the officials who failed to take proper steps," she said.

"We are an independent country. We will ask for help when we will not be able to provide food to the affected people. We have adequate food in our stock," she added.

"We will need help for rehabilitation of the flood affected people."

Pir murder

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Police said they are puzzled over the volume of documents found at Chisty's house. But some sources said police locked the house after the killing and none except one Amanullah, a former Muslim League MP and a follower of the Pir, was allowed entry into it. The sources said some more documents might have been 'removed' from the house before police seize it.

According to sources, Chisty amassed huge wealth in the form of real estate and cash. Although apparently he was a 'man without greed', the value of his immovable assets are worth crores of taka.