Please see page 8 for What's on Today. Tomorrow, Weather and Here & There.

RU admission Date of distribution, submission of form extended till Oct 25

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Oct. 15: The date of distribution and submission of admission forms for first year Honours classes for the academic session 2000-2001 has been extended from Oct 19 to Oct 25, reports BSS.

The fee for applying to each of the 44 departments of the university has been fixed at 75 taka like the previous year and an admission seeker may apply for admission to as many departments as

A total of nearly 70,000 admission forms have been submitted so far. The admission test will start from Nov 1 and continue till Nov 15.

Rubel's mother cross-examined in court

By Court Correspondent Jahanara Begum, the mother of late Shamim Reza Rubel was xross-examined vesterday in the court of the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka. She is the 24th prosecution witness in the Rubel murder

Jahanara Begum, in her statement, said that Rubel was picked up by DB police from in front of Shahidullah's shop at about 4 p.m. on July 23. On hearing the news, she, along with her daughter-in-law, went to Mukuli Begum's house and requested Mukuli to help free Rubel. But as Mukuli refused, they came back to the house.

Jahanara also told the court that her two sons went to the DB office at Minto Road to find out about the arrest of Rubel. She further said that her elder son came back home and informed them about the death of Rubel.

Dacoits kill one in Banskhali

CHITTAGONG, Oct 15: One person was shot dead and five others were injured as dacoits opened fire on villagers at Jangle Khain under Banskhali thana there last night, police said today, reports BSS.

Monirul Islam.

The villagers caught one of the dacoits and handed him over to the police. Dacoits looted valuables worth

The victim was identified as

about Taka two lakh from three houses, police said.

A case was filed with Banskhali thana in this connec-

Indian police seize 30 kg explosives

NEW DELHI, Oct 15: New Delhi police and federal detectives today said they had arrested two men and seized 30 kilograms (66 pounds) of plastic explosives intended for Sikh separatist rebels in the northern state of Punjab, reports AFP.

P.C. Sharma, a director of the federal Central Bureau of Intelligence said two men. Pyare Lal and Baldev Raj, from the Punjab town of Amritsar were arrested in the Indian capital late Saturday.

He said 30 kilograms of the powerful plastic explosive RDX and a cache of weapons were recovered from them.

The arms and ammunition seized have an enormous lethal potential and the consignment was meant to be passed on to a very active militant Babbar Khalsa group in Punjab," he said.

Gandhi'snewspaper relaunched in S Africa

DURBAN, South Africa, Oct 15 : A newspaper founded just under a century ago by Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa's east coast city of Durban and dormant for about 40 years was relaunched today by Deputy President Jacob Zuma, reports AFP.

Gandhi established the "Indian Opinion" in 1903, using it to highlight the injustices of colonialism and white domination and promote his principles of non-violence, truth and welfare

The newspaper, now called "Opinion," had a role to play in influencing South Africa's transformational and reconciliatory agenda," Zuma told the 1,000 people at the relaunch ceremony, at the Phoenix settlement also established by Gandhi.

Flood From page 1

inadequate. They are also facing acute scarcity of pure drinking water

baby food and medicines. One flood victim, identified as Prasad Kumar Mondal, who took shelter on Khulna- Satkhira roadside, was killed today in a were injured in the accident.



In a country of cheap labour, children offer their services even cheaper. Hence they are popularly used at all levels of employment. These young children, quite oblivious to the fact that they too have rights to play and lead a life as any other child in the world, are on their way to work at the Karwan Bazar kitchen market as coolies, breaking their back, literally bearing the brunt of a society that gorge itself on their sweat without caring to ensure their basic rights to them.

Farmers urged to strengthen Integrated Pest Management

Agriculture Minister Matia fields. 'We should also take into Chowdhury yesterday called upon the farmers to pursue their best efforts for popularising the on-going Integrated Pest Management (IMP) programme to boost agriculture production and protect environment by controlling pests and insects, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a five-day workshop on "Conventional Nuclear Technique for Pesticide Residue Studies in Food and Environment" at Savar, she said rampant use of chemical pesticides to protect crops from the pest attack and other diseases were in fact becoming detrimental to public health and environment.

These pesticides are manufactured by poisonous elements and that is why we should give due emphasis upon the IPM programme," she said, suggesting limited use of pesticide in crop

consideration how we can protect our environment," she added.

With the Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Engr M Habibuddin in the chair, the function was also addressed by Agriculture Secretary Dr AMM Shawkat Ali. Dr Naveem Chowdhury, Dr MA Malek and expert of the International Atomic Energy Agency Dr Janos Lantos. Matia Chowdhury called upon

the scientists to conduct research on the residual affect of these chemical pesticides on food and environment to determine an acceptable level of their use in the country. She also emphasised on the

need for educating the farmers about the bad effect of residues of these pesticides. As many as 25 scientists are

taking part in the workshop.

'New century will be shaped, dominated by Hindus: RSS

AGRA, India, Oct 15: India's minority Muslims and Christians should acknowledge their common Hindu ancestry as the new century would be shaped and dominated by Hindus, the head of a powerful Hindu right-wing group said here today, reports

K.S. Sudarshan, chief of the RSS, or National Volunteer Corps, allied to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpavee's ruling BJP party, said a shared past could help in forging a common future and religious brotherhood.

The 21st century is going to be the century of Hindus," he

RSS activists attending the last the RSS. day of a three-day event held to mark the group's 75th anniversary, that an overwhelming majority of Muslims were descendants of Hindu converts.

"blood of Rama and Krishna in dus. their veins," a reference to the two most popular gods in the Hindu

Sudarshan said the same of India's Christians and asked members of both communities to join India's "cultural maintians, Muslims and Hindus alike.

The RSS leader also conthat it had asserted in a recent document that all religions were

Cane Safety Day.

"Should people believing in such views be allowed to work here," he said in a veiled reference

to catholic missionaries. We do not need conversion, he said, and called for the establishment of an "Indian church."

"When England, Scotland and Ireland can have their own churches, it is necessary for Indian Christians to sever their ties with such an intolerant viewpoint and accept that there are other ways of salvation."

'We oppose the politics of the church," he said, claiming that there was a lot of violence in India between different Christian denominations, which was then Sudarshan told some 75,000 blamed on Hindu groups such as

The RSS, together with rightwing Hindu groups, has spearheaded a movement against foreign missionaries in India, accusing them of forcibly con-He claimed they had the verting impoverished rural Hin-

Founded in 1925, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS, National Volunteer Corps) is India's oldest Hindu nationalist group and advocates the creation of a theocratic state.

Outlawed three times since stream," risking inciting wrath India's independence in 1947, and indignation among Chris- the organisation is closely linked to India's ruling BJP party. BJP stalwarts including

demned the Vatican, claiming Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani, the cabinet number two, attended Sunday's closing cere-

Hasina-Clinton Air Force Base. From there, she will be brought to Blair House where she

Bill Clinton.

will stay during her visit.

A BSS report from London adds:

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

visit en-route to Washington DC for

her high profile visit to the United

States at the invitation of President

The Prime Minister was received at

the VVIP lounge of Heathrow airport

by a representative of the British

government, Shahwar Sadeque,

Bangladesh High Commissioner to

UK, AH Mahmood Ali and President

During her stay here. Sheikh

Hasina will attend a reception at

Camden Centre by the Bangladeshi

Her itinerary includes several

of UK branch of Bangladesh Awami

League Shamsuddin Khan.

community in the afternoon.

arrived here this morning on a day's

She is scheduled to arrive here tomorrow.

The official talks will focus on issues of mutual interest of both the nations.

The issues include extradition of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, increasing US investment in Bangladesh. duty tree and quota free access of Bangladeshi goods to the US market, legalisation of stay of undocumented Bangladeshis in US, education facilities for brilliant Bangladeshi students in US and allowing trade union activities at EPZs in Bangla-

The issue of setting up of a container terminal at Chittagong by a US company will also come up for discus-

Sources at the Bangladesh embassy said the agenda for

talks has been finalised. US officials will receive Sheikh Hasina at the Andrews

interviews with BBC, BBC World TV. Asia Today, Bangla TV and BBC's Bengali service. She will also be interviewed by editors of five Bangla violence weeklies in London.

Sheikh Hasina will leave here for Andrews Air Force Base in Washington DC on Monday morning.

Rtd govt official

From page 1 The victim, who used to live at Rampura, was taken to

Challish Ghar Slum and killed Family members blamed Kala Palash group' for the

killing. Ramna police recovered the body and sent it to DMCH for

A case was filed in this

connection. A mob beat to death an alleged mugger at Narinda in

Sutrapur thana at about 8 am vesterday. He was identified as Mohammad Ashiq, 25. Police quoting the witnesses said Ashiq along with his gang tried to snatch away

money from a pedestrian. Beaten by the mob, Ashiq was admitted to DMCH with where he died at about 9:30 am yesterday.

Abedin Faruk

Mannan Bhuiyan has con-

demned attack on opposition

whip Joynul Abedin Faruk by

Saturday, reports UNB.

मनोज्ञादमच स्वापन्छव, विद्यु

'Awami terrorists' at Senbagh on

BNP secretary general Abdul

A case was filed with Sutrapur

Mohammad Mahfuz, 24, also an alleged mugger, was beaten to death by a mob as he along with five accomplices tried to snatch away valuables from passengers of an auto-tempo at Agargaon Saturday evening.

Three others were injured in the mob beating and two fled away. Mahfuz succumbed to his injuries

at DMCH. A case was filed with Tejgaon police in this regard. In another incident, an unidenti-

fied man aged about 25 was stabbed to death and his body was recovered by police from a house at Ambagan in Ramna area yesterday morning. Miscreants killed him, police said

without giving details. They recovered his body and sent it to DMCH for autopsy. A case was lodged with Ramna

police in this regard.

Elections held BNP condemns in Albania attack on Joynal

TIRANA, Oct 15: Voters went to the polls today in Albania for the second round of municipal elections despite a call by the Democratic Party of former president Sali Berisha to boycott the vote, reports AFP.

Voter turnout was reported at between 35 and 40 per cent by midday, the Central Electoral Commission (CEC), said. The elections are taking

place calmly," said CEC spokesman Aldrin Dalipi. Albanians are to elect mayors in 28 municipalities and 128

towns following the October 1

vote in which the governing

Socialist Party won control of local councils throughout the country. Arguing that the first round was marred by vote-rigging and fraud, the Democratic Party (DP) has called on its followers to stay

away from the polls and DP candidates in Tirana as well as four tor, also sounded optimistic. other towns close to the capital have bowed out of the race. The boycott call however is

not expected to be widely followed across the country. "Only 30 DP candidates of zine, Nakeeran, said. However, the Karnataka the roughly 160 on the ballot

state administration, which have pulled out," Dalipi said. The party contested that estimation however, saying that 95 percent of its candidates had

withdrawn from the races. The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe released in two to three days," a (OSCE), which had sent 200 Karnataka government spokesof Bangalore.

Rohingya refugees

From page 1

remaining 15,000 Rohingyas at the camps and expediting the repatriation process but is yet to take up the issue of missing refugees, he added.

A police official in Cox's Bazar said smuggling of consumer goods, drugs and arms through Bangladesh-Myanmar border is increasing and suspected that the 'refugees might be involved in drugs and arms smuggling. He said the authorities have

asked police to trace the missing refugees and arrest them if they are found anywhere in the coun-

Repatriation officials noted that although Bangladesh and Myanmar authorities and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) signed a tripartite agreement to expedite the repatriation process. the Myanmar authorities kept on delaying the process by imposing fresh conditions one after

Their delaying tactics include 'reconfirmation of refugees at a much slower rate and refusal to accept split or left behind families.' These two categories comprise families whose members could not return home together on schedule due to illness of one or more of them or some other unavoidable factors and those families which failed to return due to similar reasons, officials

A total of 250,877 Rohingyas of 51,722 families had crossed into Bangladesh and taken refuge from October 1991 to June 1992 to escape persecution by

Myanmar's military regime. The repatriation process has come to a virtual halt as the Myanmar authorities are not sincere about resolving the decade old problem. The process will never end if they don't come forward to take back their nationals," said a senior government

official at Cox's Bazar.

He went on, The number of refugees is increasing every day as the rate of repatriation is less than the rate of new births in the two camps."

Sources alleged that a number of people under the cover of various organisations have long been provoking the refugees not to return home and permanently settle in Bangladesh. Violent activities of the refugees in the two camps in late 1997 were an outcome of such provocation, they noted.

"In many cases, government officials cannot control such activities of different organisations because of their links with international bodies. Therefore, people involved with these organisations do not care the officials and misguide the refu-

Two injured at Adamjee Jute Mills

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 15: Two people were critically injured in Adamjee Jute Mills labour colony when part of the roof caved in at a room in Colony No 4 at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Uttam, 18, and Kulsum, 17, were taken to a hospital in Dhaka.

None of the buildings of the labour colony has been repaired for a long time, putting the workers at great risk.

5 more killed in Bihar

NEW DELHI, Oct 15: Five people have been shot dead by gunmen in the lawless Indian state of Bihar, the Press Trust of India reported today, says AFP.

State police chief identified those killed as lower caste Hindus and said they were shot late Saturday night in the district of Nalanda, some 60 km from the state capital of Patna. Heavily-armed men belong-

ing to a private army of a feudal landowner stormed a village and opened fire on their victims, killing all five of them instantly. Eight of the attackers have

been arrested, Nalanda's chief

administrator Rajesh Agarwal Nalanda has been the site of recent Hindu-Muslim sectarian

The latest murders came in the wake of a massacre of 11 Hindu men and women by Mus-

lim gunmen in the northern

Bihari town of Siwan on Friday. The police have attributed the massacre to a drawn-out feud between rival followers of an ancient poet cum religious cult leader, Sant Kabir, who has devo-

tees both from the Hindu and the Muslim communities. Bihar is prone to caste con flicts. Clashes between private militias operated by upper caste landlords and Maoist guerrillas have left more than 500 people

dead over the past two years. With a population of 110 million, Bihar has India's lowest per capita income and its highest crime rate, with an average 5,000 murders, 3,000 abductions and 600 train robberies a year.

Police say the creation of a new state of Jharkhand, carved out of the mineral-rich southern districts of Bihar, could spark more bloodletting after the administrative handover of the new province next month.

The leftwing rebels, who look at Jharkhand as their bastion, have been waging an armed campaign in Bihar for more than two decades on behalf of poor farmers held in bondage by Bihari landowners.

Breakthrough expected in Rajkumar's kidnapping

BANGALORE, India, Oct 15 Mediators seeking the release of a matinee idol held hostage by India's most-wanted bandit said today a breakthrough was expected later in the day, reports

"Positive information about the release of actor Rajkumar can be expected tonight," mediator P. Nedumaran's office said in a statement released in the southern Indian city of Madras.

bandit Veerappan, who has been holding Rajkumar and three others in the forests along the southern Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka since July 30. R.R. Gopal, another media-

"Our negotiations are going on. We expect some good news towards the end of the day," a statement issued by Gopal's Madras-based weekly news maga-

appointed Gopal as its official negotiator, was not as optimistic that he would be freed on Friday. "We do not know whether the release is imminent or not (today)

public universities was 6.19 per cent of the total budgetary allocation for the education sector but we expect Rajkumar to be | during 1980-85 financial years. But it was reduced to 1.1 per cent in fiscal 1997-98 and to 0.77 per report said.

Depression may intensify

From page 1

at about 770 km south-west of Chittagong port 3 pm yesterday.

It is likely to intensify further and move in a west-northwesterly direction, the bulletin said.

within 44 km of the depression The sea will remain moderate.

Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted distant warning signal No. two. All fishing boats and trawlers

The depression pushed the mercury up, raising the day

temperature to 36 degree Celsius

at Cox's Bazar and 33.9 in Dhaka city. The day temperature will remain unchanged today. Appearing first as a wellmarked low in the east-central Bay and adjoining west-central

depression on Saturday. It had brewed from the south China Sea which churns out cyclones during March-May and October-December.

Bay on Friday, it turned into a

Taliban ban on opium not for int'l recognition: Omar

KABUL, Oct 15: A total ban Afghanistan is not designed to of Helmand had the highest cultiwin international recognition of vation with 42,835 hectares of the country's Taliban regime, the poppy followed by the eastern ruling militia's supreme leader province of Nangarhar with Mulla Mohammad Omar said in a 19,747 hectares. report today, says AFP.

Afghan society and control a rise in the number of opium and her- minors become drug addicts," he oin addicts.

issued is not for its recognition," the newspaper quoted Omar as We have banned this thing he said. 'It is your obligation to with the sole intention of reform- implement it," he told the paper. ing the Afghan Muslim nation," he said, adding the Taliban had not

external elements to do so. Afghanistan last year emerged as the world's largest ence, Omar told provincial goveropium producer with a record nors and local administrators

yield of 4,600 tonnes. report last week said the country's opium crop dropped this vear to 3,275 tonnes, marking a

28 percent decline. The United Nations Drug Control Program annual opium survey confirmed poppy cultivation in 125 out of 344 districts in

the country.

The survey estimates that there were 82,172 hectares of land under poppy cultivation in the 2000 season, showing a 10 percent reduction" from 1999 season, the report said.

Summit

From page 12 Palestinian lawmaker Hanan

Ashrawi said the summit would be "geared towards crisis management, geared towards damage control and putting an end to the Israeli violence on the ground." Clinton has acknowledged progress would be tough, despite

a marked reduction of bloodlet-

ting in the past two days. "After the terrible events of the past few days, the situation is still quite tense," he said in Washington on Friday. Clinton said the goal of the summit the result of five days of mediation by Annan was to stop

Because of

the violence, agree on a "fact-

finding mechanism" to look into

what caused the unrest and to get

back on the peace track.

From page 1 67,145 students and 4,264 teachers. The number of teachers staying outside the campuses is 721, which is 16.90 per cent of Brig. MA Malek came to the total.

A total of 165 students are now studying at the universities with the highest number of 47 at Nedumaran did not give BUET, followed by 42 at Dhaka details of his negotiations with University and 28 at Bangladesh

Agricultural University. The teacher-student ratio is not satisfactory though the number of teachers was increased by six per cent last year. The average ratio is 1:15.75 now. It is 1:15 at DU, 1:16 at Rajshahi University. 1:11 at Agriculture University, 1:34 at Islamic University and 1:8 at Khulna University.

To improve the standard of education, the UGC report suggested more budgetary allocation for the universities, instead of reducing it gradually.

The average allocation for commercially.

have been advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with

issued by the Met office at 9 pm said the depression was centred caution.

Maximum sustained wind

centre is about 40 km per hour, rising to 50 kph in gust/squalls. Maritime ports of Chittagong,

in the north Bay and in deep sea

The survey also confirmed on the cultivation of opium in the opium-rich southern province

Omar said the ban was Omar told the official daily declared because a limited num-Anis newspaper that he ordered ber of people benefited while a the ban last month only to reform large number suffered.

"The decree which the provinces were in a poor social Islamic Emirate (Taliban) has shape compared to the regions with no opium cultivation. The ban of poppy was

ordered in the national interest,

said, adding poppy-growing

You will repent if your

"The ultimate provider is God the Almighty," Omar said, urging been tempted or encouraged by Afghanistani farmers to seek alternate means of survival.

Warning against disobedi-

they would be held responsible if However, a United Nations opium was cultivated in their areas. The Taliban regime, controlling most of the country, is recog-

nised only by Pakistan, Saudi

Arabai and the United Arab Emirates. 7 hurt

From page 1 the hostel were caught red handed while filching cooked food

meant for the student nurses a few days back. When the matter was brought to the notice of hostel supervisor Momtaz Begum, she instructed both Shaheen and Sumana to report to the principal of the

The principal at her office at about 1p.m. yesterday asked both to describe exactly what had happened on that day. But at one point the two started accusing each other again. Within moments all the dinning staff including ayas (domestic help)

and assistant cooks attacked the

Power crisis

ment approval.

From page 1 to the national grid," the official said seeking anonymity. The overhauling was taken up

at least six months behind sched-

ule because of delayed govern-

A minor overhauling work involves several crores of taka. A complete overhauling will require around Tk 90 crore, sources in PDB said.

Chittagong recently to review the situation. The team visited Anwara, Satkania and Bandarban and later held a meeting with the local

Meanwhile, a team of PDB high

officials headed by its chairman

high officials of PDB at its rest house in the city.

From page 12 cult job for CAAB. Pariah Kites mainly make the task difficult. Their prime attraction is fish in wetlands around the airport. There were commercial fisheries inside the airport earlier but lease

of those have been cancelled, the

CAAB

official said. But many more remain around the airport, where fish is raised

Besides, left over food from various airlines disposed of hap-· hazardly in and around the airport and garbage dumps nearby attract birds.

Steps in this regard have also become necessary, one source said.

road accident. Four other victims | Andha Paribar Kalyan Samity brought at a procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of White man told AFP in the state capital | cent in fiscal 1998-99, the UGC observers to monitor the October -- Star photo I round, declared the vote fair.

gees," an official said.