

# 13,000 adults HIV positives in Bangladesh

## Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen thousand adults aged from 15 to 49 are HIV positive in the country, said the speakers at a workshop in Rajshahi recently.

Quoting a survey of the World Health Organisation, they said HIV prevalence among the IDU (injecting drug users) has risen to four percent which is only one percent below the concentrated epidemic level.

They said there are 46 lakh drug users in the country of whom 20,000 are IDU.

The workshop titled 'Divisional Sensitisation Workshop on HIV Risk Reduction' was organised by South-South Centre, in partnership with Family Health International, in Rajshahi on Tuesday.

The purpose of the workshop was to sensitise the divisional level officials, NGOs, representatives of print and electronic media, and

other stakeholders about the danger of HIV/AIDS.

"Our great concern is that Bangladesh is in a very vulnerable position to this epidemic as it is surrounded by two neighbouring countries- India and Nepal- that are highly infected with HIV," said Md Mosleh Uddin, commissioner of Rajshahi Division.

He said it is very difficult to stop the spread of the epidemic if HIV prevalence crosses the concentration level.

He also cautioned that most of the IDU are poor and involved with anti-social activities with high-risk behaviour as they share the needles and syringes, and are involved in unprotected sex.

Nur Mohammad, deputy inspector general of police, said experiences of some Muslim countries like Indonesia and Iran and some states of India showed the fueling of HIV epidemic among IDUs when members of law enforcing agencies are not aware of the issue.

He, therefore, stressed the need of educating the members of law enforcing agencies about the complex dynamics of the epidemic.

"Drug users are not criminals, rather they are patients and they should be treated accordingly," he added.

Dr Reaz Uddin, divisional director (health), urged the government and non-government organisations to initiate discussions with concerned officials and civil society members to create a congenial environment to implement effective harm reduction programme in order to stop the spread of HIV infection among the high-risk groups.

## PM offers prayers at Masjidul Haram

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia offered Maghrib, Esha and Tarabih prayers at Masjidul Haram at Makkah al Mukarrama on Tuesday night.

She also offered 'Kamil leil,' particular late night prayer at Masjidul Haram and joined the special prayers arranged on the occasion of holy Lailatul Qadr. Khaleda Zia prayed to almighty Allah for the welfare of the nation and the country.

She will offer Jumatul Wida prayers at Masjidul Haram today and later leave for Jeddah.

The prime minister will be back home on November 13.

## Obituary

Feroza Akhtar Khatun, mother of Dr Fakrudin Ahmed, governor of Bangladesh Bank, died yesterday at the age of 86, says a press release.

She is survived by one son and one daughter. She was buried at the Banani Graveyard.

Her qulkhwan will be held at 3/15, Block # G, Lalmaia after Asr prayers on November 13. Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhwan.

## Death anniversary

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Hasna Hena Qadir, founding member of Ekatturer Chatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, says a press release.

Wife of Liberation War martyr Lt. Col. M Abdul Qadir, after whom the Qadirabad Cantonment in Natore is named, Hasna Hena passed away in 1999.

A milad and doa mahfil will be held at the army graveyard in Banani after Asr prayers.

## Siddiqur Rahman Khan

Today is the 32nd death anniversary of freedom fighter Siddiqur Rahman Khan, says a press release.

During the liberation war, he was the commander of three thanas -- Nawabganj, Dohar and Keraniganj.

Popularly known as Siddique Master, he was an English teacher of Nawabganj High School.

He hailed from Charigram of Manikganj district.

## Chehlum

Chehlum of Golam Qudus, deputy assistant director of Immigration and Passport Department, will be held at his village home at Dhanyapur in Begumganj, Noakhali today, says a press release.

He died on September 26. Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the chehlum.



President Iajuddin Ahmed, top, and Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, bottom, sign the condolence book opened at the Embassy of Palestine in the city yesterday on the death of Palestine President Yasser Arafat.

## Govt programmes to celebrate Eid

BSS, Dhaka

Government has chalked out an elaborate programme to celebrate the Eid-ul-Fitr in a befitting manner.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will give separate messages on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The main Eid jamaat will be held at 8:30am at National Eidgah on the High Court premises if the weather remains favourable. In case of inclement weather, the main Eid jamaat will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 8:30am.

National flag will be hoisted atop of all government and private buildings on the occasion.

All main roads and road islands from Dhaka Gate at Banani to Bangabhaban will be decorated with national flags and banners inscribed with "Eid-Mubarak" in Bangla and Arabic.

All government buildings will also be illuminated on the occasion. Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television will broadcast and telecast special programmes. National dailies will bring out special supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

The programme also includes distribution of improved diet at hospitals, jails, government children homes, vagrant shelters and destitute welfare centres across the country on the day.

Screening of films at selected

places has also been arranged by Mass Communications Department on the occasion.

Arrangements have been made to hold seminars, discussions on the significance of Eid-ul-Fitr and cultural functions will also be held to mark the day.

Under-privileged children will also be allowed in the Shishu Park without tickets on the Eid day.

All Bangladesh embassies abroad will celebrate the Eid-ul-Fitr in a befitting manner.

Besides, all divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners, upazila nirbahi officers, and local government establishments will organise separate programmes in the light of national programmes to celebrate the day.

Meanwhile, main Eid jamaat in the Chittagong city will be held at Chittagong MA Aziz Stadium at 8.45 am. It has been organised by the Chittagong Central Eid Jaamat Committee and district administration.

Another large Eid congregation under the management of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) will be held on Jamiatul Falah Masjid premises at 8.00 am and second jamaat will be held on the same premises at 9.00 am.

Besides, nearly 215 Eid jamaats will be held in the port city.

Chittagong City Corporation has organised 125 Eid jamaats in the city including 41 CCC wards under the direct supervision of respective ward commissioners.

## 3 criminals hurt in 'shootout' with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Three alleged criminals were bullet-hit in a 'shootout' with the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Chanmari in the town yesterday.

They are Nazmul, 30, brother of a former lawmaker from Arahaz upazila, Shah Alam, 30, and Anjan, 28.

Challenged by the Rab, the criminals opened fire on them, prompting the law-enforcers to retaliate. Rab sources said. They were about to mug a businessperson at around 11:00am, the sources added.

The Rab seized a pistol and four bullets.

## BDR recovers 11 LGs, one pistol at Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mandarban

Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday recovered 11 light guns (LG) and one foreign-made pistol from Bandarban.

Acting on a tip off, the BDR members of Bolipara zone recovered the abandoned arms from a hill at Naikhhayang para, 130 km away from Bandarban sadar.

Sensing the arrival of BDR men, the miscreants fled away from their den, sources said.

## Revisiting 1970 devastating cyclone

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

November 12 is back again with the dreadful memory of the worst ever cyclone and tidal surge that lashed the country's coastal belt and the southern region 34 years ago.

On this day in 1970, the nature's fury claimed the lives of more than one million people, left more than two million injured and about 10 million homeless.

The severe storm and high tidal wave hit all the coastal districts, including Patuakhali, Barisal, Noakhali and Sandwip, at night, leaving a trail of devastation.

Recalling the fateful day, Abul Kalam, 62, and Abul Kashem, 49, of

Bhola, who lost their parents and relatives in that disaster, told The Daily Star that 10 to 12 feet high tidal wave swept away everything. They saved their lives by climbing coconut and palm trees.

"I thought it was Qiamat (doomsday)," said Kalam.

The catastrophe also cast a deep impact on the political landscape of the region.

Utter failure and gross negligence of the then Pakistani regime to deal with the post-cyclone situation stunned the world and reinforced the resolve of the people in the then eastern wing of Pakistan to secede from Pakistan. And in the following year Bangladesh was born.

## Non-communal govt a must to solve CHT crisis: Santu Larma

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A true democratic and non-communal government is needed to solve the problems in Chittagong Hill Tracts, said Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma, president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) on Wednesday.

Talking to journalists at Bandarban Circuit House, he said the alliance government has already lost its credibility to the indigenous people for its failure to implement the peace treaty.

Santu Larma alleged that the activities of the government officials in hill districts are aimed to make the regional council inactive.

"Army is still active in Chittagong

Hill Tracts and the government is using the security men for spying on me," Larma claimed.

## Show cause on 3 Khulna BNP men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three top leaders of Khulna city BNP have been asked to show cause why they should not face disciplinary action for their involvement in anti-organisational activities.

They are city BNP Vice Presidents Sekander Zafarullah Khan Sacchu and Shaharuzzaman Martuza and Joint Secretary Kazi Mohammad Rashed.

## Patterson: Port privatisation

FROM PAGE 12 businesses in the port city, said it is not for the US that the port should be privatised. "Privatisation is a good idea for efficient running of the port, efficient handling of cargo and quick clearance of customs," he observed.

The AL leaders agreed with the US idea of privatising the Chittagong Port and said there is no problem if such a port benefits people of the country.

"The previous Awami League government never opposed the idea of a private port in Chittagong," Jalli said to have told Patterson when the US deputy assistant secretary asked about AL's position on the issue.

On AL leader and Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin's vehement opposition against a private port there, Jalli told reporters, "Mohiuddin has given his opinion as Mayor of the city and it does not represent the Awami League's view."

Jalli said the US official expressed concern over the slide in law and order and rise of religious extremist groups in Bangladesh. "We told him that the present coalition formed government with fundamentalist forces and for this secular character of Bangladesh is now at stake," he said.

He said the US also lauded the AL leaders for staging a comeback to parliament, but the AL alleged that they are not allowed to discuss crucial national issues there, includ-

ing slide in law and order and widespread corruption by the ruling alliance members.

He said after re-election of President Bush to the White House for another four years, "We would like to see how our relations should go and what the issues are ahead of us."

PATTERSON MEETS BHOWDHURY Patterson later met with former president and BDB chief Badruddoza Chowdhury and other leaders at Chowdhury's Baridhara residence.

The US deputy assistant secretary expressed concern over recent attacks on the BDB meetings and said in a democratic society every citizen should have the right to express his opinion freely.

"But I am glad to see here that many political parties are functioning which is good for democracy," Patterson commented.

BDB leaders Abdul Mannan, Firoze M Hasan and Mahi B Chowdhury were also present at the meeting.

The BDB leaders briefed Patterson about their plan to formulate a people's manifesto with suggestions from broader spectrum of society. "The US deputy assistant secretary of state welcomed our public manifesto programme," said BDB Spokesman Mahi B Chowdhury.



## Fall in night temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain dry over the country till 6.00pm today.

Slight fall in night temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 31 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 13.0 degree Celsius at Srirangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:14pm today and rises at 6:12am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest 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	29.3	16.8	42	46
Chittagong	30.8	18.3	58	52
Rajshahi	29.5	15.3	72	71
Khulna	30.0	19.5	75	70
Barisal	29.2	18.5	87	95
Sylhet	29.5	17.8	76	64
Cox's Bazar	30.0	21.1	61	51

## TV GUIDE

### PICK OF THE DAY



### High Crimes

On Star Movies at 7:00pm

Genre: Crime/Thriller/Drama

Cast: Ashley Judd, Morgan Freeman, James Caviezel

Direction: Carl Franklin

High-powered lawyer Claire Kubik finds her world turned upside down when her husband, who she thought was Tom Kubik, is arrested and is revealed to be Ron Chapman. Chapman is on trial for a murder of Latin American villagers while he was in the Marines. Claire soon learns that to navigate the military justice system, she'll need help from the somewhat unconventional Charlie Grimes; meanwhile, Claire's sister, Jackie, is falling in love with wet-behind-the-ears Lieutenant Embry assigned as the official defence lawyer. And most of the eyewitnesses have rather too conveniently died.

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

### News Bulletin

BTB

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:30 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.

Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 7:15 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.

Telecast of BTB news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

Telecast of BTB News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.

News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

Telecast of BTB News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.

Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

BTB

07:30 Bangladesh Hridoy

11:20 Hello Apnakey Bolchhi

12:35 Satellite Programme

01:30 Live Telecast Of The

Match Between Bangladesh And New Zealand

03:15 Shagbadpater Pata

03:25 Bangla Feature Film

04:50 Mahe Ramjan

07:05 Priyo Shilpi Priyo Gan

07:30 Alif Layla

08:30 Agnar Charpesh

09:00 Cine Magazine

09:30 Priyo Manush

10:30 Talk Show: Lal Golap

CHANNEL-i

07:30 Musical Programme: Prothom Shur

08:45 Trityo Motra

10:30 Live Show: Tele Shomoy

11:30 Islam Ki Boley

12:00 Talk Show: Kora Alap

12:30 Sa Re Ga Ma

01:00 Bangla Gaan

01:30 Public Reaction

04:40 Janopader Khorob

05:45 Manohar Ilfar

06:00 Music Plus

07:50 Weekly Drama: Bela

08:00 Abela

09:35 Drama Serial: 69

10:00 Drama Serial: Ahoish

Bhalobashay Ekjon

ATN BANGLA

07:30 The Sword of Tipu Sultan

10:25 Annodrishtee

11:05 Islamic Programme

03:40 Binodon Jummabar

05:10 Mobarak ho Mahe

Ramadan

06:20 Anra Korbo Joy

08:00 Rup Machuri

08:30 Drama Serial: Khawab

09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni

09:30 Drama Serial: Baba

10:35 Cine Musical Programme

12:20 Shustha Thakun

ntv

08:00 Aajker Shakal

08:30 Siddika Kabir's Recipe

09:20 Aain O Jibon

10:30 Apnar Jigyasha

11:30 Trans World Sports

01:05 Smritir Janalay

02:30 Drama: Pata Jhare

03:45 Brikkha More Na

04:00 Circus

05:20 Tiffin Pankey

06:20 Shubho Shondhira

08:15 Drama Serial: