



PHOTO: STAR
The Daily Star and principals, teachers and representatives of 41 English medium schools at a joint meeting decided to set up 'The Daily Star -- English Medium Schools Relief Fund' for the Monga-affected people. Photo shows Niloufer Manzur, chairperson of Sunbeams School, speaking at the meeting at The Daily Star office on November 15. (Story on Page 20)

Fresh probe into case against Bangla Bhai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police at the directive of the home ministry have started reinvestigating a case filed with Mollahat Police Station in Bagerhat against Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai and 11 others.

A Bagerhat court on November 8 granted the petition seeking permission to reinvestigate the case.

The case was filed on August 17, 2002 against the accused for attacking the house of Awami League leader Tarapada Poddar in Gaola village in Mollahat on August 15.

Bangla Bhai and some of his associates were arrested and arms, bombs, leaflets and army uniforms were recovered from them.

There is allegation that Sub-inspector Humayun Kabir of Detective Branch pressed fabricated charges in the case on January 1, 2003 to save Bangla Bhai and four others.

He also submitted the final report in favour of the FIR-named accused Siddiqui Islam Pramanik alias Bangla Bhai, Laltu Mollah, Shafique, Hafiz and Abdullah. Bangla Bhai was released from Bagerhat jail as charges against him was dismissed by the court.

Officer-in-Charge of Mollahat Police Station Md Selim filed the petition with the Court of First Class Magistrate on October 24, seeking permission to reinvestigate the case.

The docket of the case was sent back to Mollahat police on November 14 from the Court of Additional District Magistrate for reinvestigation, this time by OCSelim.

'CROSSFIRE' KILLING
Khulna Jubo League accuses Rab of cooking up story

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Jubo League leaders of Khulna district and city units yesterday accused Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) of killing Babul Majumdar by plotting a false story of arms trade.

The leaders of Jubo League, student wing of Awami League, termed Rab actions a government blue print designed to foil the opposition's 'Dhaka siege' programme on November 22.

Addressing a press conference at Khulna Press Club, they announced a month-long programme to protest against the killing and demanding release of district unit president Kamruzzaman Jamal.

The month-long programme includes symbolic hunger strike at Shaheed Hadith Park today, human chain on November 20 and a rally in Sonadanga on December 7.

President of city unit Jubo League Anisur Rahman Poplu said the killing of their publicity secretary Babul Majumdar is extra-judicial.

The Rab claim of seizing arms from Babul and Jamal is baseless, he said, adding that no-one of them had links to outlawed parties. He demanded an impartial probe into the death of Babul and arrest of Jamal.

Meantime, Jamal has been sent to jail custody with implication of the same allegation.

RABVERSION

The Rab said an M16 rifle was seized from three people including two Jubo League leaders on Wednesday. Accordingly, they were arrested. They were involved in gunrunning for a longtime.

A special team of the Rab intelligence wing moved in disguise to buy that M16 rifle. It was settled that the weapon will be sold for Tk3.8 lakh.

The rifle was brought only after part payment in advance, the Rab claimed.

Concern over SC confirmation of death sentence of child

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Juvenile Justice Network (JJN), a network of more than 25 organisations and individuals, yesterday expressed grave concern over the confirmation of the death sentence of a child by the Supreme Court.

The network, working to protect the rights of children in conflict with the law, urged the government to immediately activate the Juvenile Courts as provided for under the Children Act 1974 with absolute and expanded jurisdiction in every district.

Speaking at a roundtable, the network leaders also urged the government to amend the Children Act 1974 to ensure fair trial of juvenile offenders.

The roundtable on the issue of Shukur Ali Judgement by the Supreme Court was organised by Save the Children at its office at Gulshan in the city.

Shukur Ali, a 14-year-old boy at the time of the offence, was sentenced for rape and murder by a Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression in Manikganj in 2001.

The Supreme Court later confirmed the verdict.

The case has now been referred to the President for clemency.

The network members said the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Bangladesh was one of the first nations to ratify, clearly prohibits the application of the death penalty for children under 18 at the time of the offence, as does the Children Act 1974.

The children act further clearly directs that the purpose of the juvenile justice system is to protect and rehabilitate young offenders, not to punish, they added.

The speakers said the core principle of juvenile justice is that child offenders are not irrevocably spoiled but are capable of becoming full and valued members of society with the proper care and support.

The Network will request President Iajuddin Ahmed and Minister for Law and Justice Moudud Ahmed in this regard soon.

UM Habibun Nessa of Save the Children, Md Rafiquzzaman of Unicef, Francois Ramsay of CIDA, Jamil Hassan of Terre des Hommes Italy, Farhana Ferdous of Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum and other representatives of the network spoke on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Manobadhi Kar Bastobayon Sangstha has sent a mercy letter to the President for Shukur Ali on November 14.



PHOTO: STAR
Rajuk bulldozes an unauthorised extension of 'Wimpy' at Gulshan yesterday during its ongoing drive against unauthorised structures in the city. The Gulshan Club is the owner of the building that houses the fast food shop. Officials of the Gulshan Club were also present at the site when the demolition team brought down the unauthorised extension.

DHAKA TODAY

Reception

A reception will be accorded to students who received GPA-5 with Opposition Leader in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Banglanagar. Time: 2.30pm.

ENT conference

The second international ENT conference, organised by the Society of Otolaryngologist and Head Neck Surgeons of Bangladesh, will be inaugurated with Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 3.00pm.

Memorial discussion

BNP organises a memorial discussion to mark the 29th death anniversary of Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan s chief guest. Venue: Wapda Auditorium, Motijheel. Time: 3.00pm.

Dance performance

The High Commission of India will present a Manipuri dance performance by Kalavati Devi and her trainees. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 7.00pm

Alumni meting

The first meeting of the executive committee of West End High School Alumni Association will be held. Venue: TSC auditorium of Dhaka University. Time: 5.00pm.

IDEB meeting

A two-day monthly meeting of the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh will be held. Venue: IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail. Time: 10.00am.

Discussion

Jatiya Mukti Council organises a discussion to celebrate its second founding anniversary. Venue: Shaheed Tajul auditorium, 21/2 Purana Paltan. Time: 3.00pm.

IDEB meeting

A two-day monthly meeting of the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh will be held. Venue: IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail. Time: 10.00am.



Doa mahfil for Enayetullah Khan today

A doa mahfil to pray for the departed soul of Enayetullah Khan, editor of the New Age and editor-in-chief of Holiday, will be held at the residence of his younger brother, Shahidullah Khan Badal, at House # 22, Road # 113, Gulshan after Asr prayers (4:00pm) today, says a press release.

Family, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Enayetullah Khan passed away in Toronto General Hospital on November 10 at the age of 66. He was laid to rest at Banani graveyard on November 14.

Protect country's interests
PM asks diplomats

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has urged Bangladesh diplomats to protect country's interests and uphold its real image in the outer world by pursuing updated diplomacy.

"An atmosphere of change has begun to blow in the political and economic arena of South Asia. New developments have been observed also in the political and economic fields. There are challenges as well as potential and scope brought in these changing scenario," Khaleda, also the newly elected Saarc chairperson, told rank and file of the foreign ministry yesterday.

The prime minister was addressing the officials and employees of the foreign ministry at the ministry to give them thanks for their relentless efforts to successfully hosting the just concluded 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka.

This was Khaleda's first visit as a prime minister to the foreign ministry during her current tenure.

"You will have to always think how to protect the interests of Bangladesh under any circumstances and atmosphere ...you'll have to innovate creative working strategy and implement those," she told the function also attended by Bangladesh high commissioners and ambassadors to different countries, here on the occasion of the regional summit.

She mentioned that the world situation now is much complex than any time before--and adverse, too, in some respects.

"The traditional trend and ways are not enough to face such situation. Now much alertness and awareness is essential in diplomacy. More intelligence, skill, activism and eagerness are an imperative," she observed.

18th CHOGM begins in Malta
Nov 25

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan will lead Bangladesh delegation to the 18th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Malta on November 25-27.

He will leave Dhaka for Malta tomorrow at the head of a seven-member delegation.

This year the theme of CHOGM, as proposed by the host Malta, is "Networking the Commonwealth for Development."

Official sources said the heads of government of the commonwealth countries will discuss issues like trade, development, human rights, millennium development goals, foreign private investment, terrorism, governance and capacity building, poverty eradication and natural disaster management.

The summit will be preceded by a Pre-CHOGM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Malta on November 23-24.

The FM meeting will discuss UN reforms, human rights, terrorism, small arms and light weapons, illegal immigration, trade liberalisation, debt and international economic cooperation.

The heads of government will meet over one executive session on November 25 followed by three informal retreat sessions.

'Bangladesh Sanglap' goes on air

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A series of talk show titled 'Bangladesh Sanglap', a live programme on BBC Bangla Radio, went on air yesterday.

The topic of the yesterday's programme was 'Are people receiving justice'.

The programme was held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka where a panel of discussants replied to queries from the participants.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru, former Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal, Barrister Abdur Razzak and Advocate Sultana Kamal were the panel members.

Killing of two judges in Jhalakhati, deaths in crossfire with Rab, 'heart attack deaths' during Operation Clean Heart, delay in rendering justice, law against abuse of children and separation of judiciary were some of the issues the questioners put forward to the panel members.

BBC Bangla Service producer Shakil Anwar moderated the programme.

The next round of talk show will be held on November 24 at the same venue at 8:00pm and the topic is corruption.

The Daily Star is the media partner of the special discussion programme.

The programme will start at 8:00pm after BBC's popular programme 'Prabaho' every Thursday. It can be enjoyed at SW 31 and 41 metre bands (9395 and 7520 KHz) and FM 100 MHz in Dhaka.

People also have the opportunity to participate in the special discussion programme that is covering a myriad of issues like corruption, administration, judiciary, local government system, education system, trade and commerce, health care, law and order and security.

Orbis Flying Eye Hospital in Ctg to save sight, transfer skills

The Orbis Flying Eye Hospital aboard a DC-10 aircraft landed at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong yesterday to showcase the latest technological advances in eye care, says a press release.

This is the eighth visit of Orbis Flying Eye Hospital in Bangladesh since 1985 and the second visit in Chittagong since 2002.

The Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex (CEITC) and Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh, Chittagong branch, are hosting the world's only flying eye hospital and Orbis's most technologically advanced training programme in Chittagong.

The programme will be conducted by a multinational staff team as well as volunteer doctors, nurses and anaesthetists from the USA, the UK and Ireland. It will address some of the leading causes of blindness, including cataract, corneal and retinal diseases and strabismus.

"We hope that the flying eye hospital programme will serve as a catalyst for local eye care professionals to learn so that they can teach others and expand the opportunity for the treatment of visually impaired people in Bangladesh," said Drew Boshell, Orbis Flying Eye Hospital Director.

Through hands-on training, lectures, symposia, computerised simulator and surgical demonstrations, the two-week Flying Eye Hospital programme will focus on training local ophthalmologists to perform corneal transplants independently with



increased confidence, surgically manage diabetic patients as well as properly diagnose and manage paediatric cataracts and strabismus cases.

The CEITC is a long-term local blindness prevention partner of Orbis Bangladesh Country Programme. There will be a two-week nursing training programme on the flying eye hospital where trainees will rotate through the operating room, sub-sterile area and recovery room.

Orbis Bangladesh Country Director Dr Md Khairul Islam said that in order to contain childhood blindness in the country, maintain a steady growth in eye donation and let doctors know the latest techniques in treatment, the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital is a true harbinger of hope for the Bangladeshi ophthalmic community that is struggling for quality service delivery. "The Flying Eye Hospital is also a blessing for those individuals who are needlessly lost to the world of darkness."

He said the hallmark of Orbis

programme in Bangladesh continues to focus on paediatric ophthalmology, the strengthening of eye health centre capacity and supporting community outreach in rural areas. Over the last few years, Orbis Bangladesh Country Office has also contributed a lot in development of sub-specialty like corneal blindness and eye banking.

An organising committee chaired by Prof Rabiul Husain, managing trustee of CEITC, has been providing all necessary support to the Chittagong Flying Eye Hospital programme. Over the last few months, this committee has already identified a group of selected patients who will be consulted and treated during this programme.

Orbis is an international non-profit humanitarian organisation committed to preserving and restoring sight in the developing world through hands-on training of medical professionals and by strengthening the capacity of in-country eye care services and institutions.



PHOTO: STAR
Family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and members of civil society line up along a road at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday to demand trial of the perpetrators of the gruesome murder.

'Political will a must to curb human trafficking'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday called for concerted efforts by the Saarc countries to combat human trafficking.

A national strategy as well as strong political commitment are also needed to tackle the problem, they added.

The issue should be dealt with regionally, nationally and internationally and raising awareness as well as reducing poverty are a must to tackle the problem, they said.

The Khan Foundation in cooperation with the Unicef organised the national conference titled 'Trafficking on the Saarc Agenda: The Way Forward' at the LGRD auditorium in the city.

Referring to the ratification of Saarc Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution at the 13th Saarc summit, the speakers said it is time to take initiatives to proceed to the next stage.

Speaking as the chief guest, LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said poverty in the Saarc states is the main factor behind trafficking in persons.

He also called for raising awareness among the people and involving local

government in the fight against trafficking.

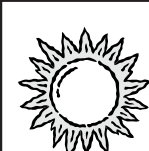
Prof Amena Mohsin of Dhaka University presented a keynote paper on 'Overview of Child Trafficking in Bangladesh' while Prof Ishrat Shamim, president of Centre for Women and Children Studies, presented an analysis of key recommendations of the 13th Saarc Summit.

Criticising the definition provided in the convention as very narrow, Prof Ishrat Shamim said it has overlooked some pertinent issues.


"The convention does not clarify the recipient country's accountability in rescue, rehabilitation, repatriation of trafficked women and children," she added.

Executive Director of Khan Foundation Advocate Rokhsana Khondker chaired the conference.

Women and Children Affairs Secretary M Hyder Ali, Representative of Unicef Bangladesh Louis Georges Arsenault, Home Secretary Sarfaraj Hossain, Deputy Secretary Shaik Abdur Rouf, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu and Mizanur Rahman of International Organization for Migration (IOM) also spoke.



WEATHER TODAY



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Barisal and lowest 15.6 degree Celsius at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:12pm today and rises at 6:16am 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	30.0	19.5	63	69
Chittagong	30.4	18.2	58	55
Rajshahi	29.0	15.6	99	90
Khulna	30.0	18.8	87	81
Barisal	31.0	19.3	87	91
Sylhet	29.9	18.9	81	73

'1000 PEACE WOMEN ACROSS THE GLOBE'
16 Bangladeshi women receive books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen Bangladeshi women, who were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005, received books titled '1000 Peace Women Across the Globe' at a ceremony in the city yesterday.

The 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005, a project of Switzerland, gave away the books.

Kamla Bhasin, coordinator for South Asia of the project, handed over the books to the women in celebration of their efforts and in recognition of their works.

A discussion was also held at the Bengal Gallery of Arts on the occasion.

Speaking at the discussion, Kamla said peace is a continuous ongoing process where women play a quiet but definitive role.


"Peace is comprehensive human security and we believe peace cannot be brought by one woman or man. Rather, it is a collective effort."

The book contains the works and visions of 1000 women. It describes the life and achievements of each woman, whether she works at the grassroots, nationally or internationally. It is published by Scalo Publishing in Zurich, Switzerland.

A documentary on 'Redefining peace: Women lead the way' was also shown at the programme.

Advocate Sultana Kamal, cultural personality Sara Zaker, Foujia Khandokar, Dil Monwara Monu and Natasha Ahmad were present.

Chehlum



Chehlum of Begum Faizunnesa, wife of noted dramatist late M Golam Rahman, will be held at her residence after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Faizunnesa passed away on October 6 at her residence at the age of 85.