# Dhaka Day by Day

## More than a Piece of Furniture

by A M Amin & Shankar Bihari Nath



Amirullah with his Shahi Palank

While you pass by the head office of Uttara incongruous with the smog, congestion and general ugliness of this area. Inside a large parking lot, among the rows of cars, sits a man selling a rather unique product — a king -size bedstead I What really draws attention is the intricate work carved on the shining wood, fittingly to be placed in a Shahzadah's bedroom. The creator of this ornate piece of furniture, Amirullah Khan, has put up signboards in both English and Bangla that read 'Shahi Palank' and inform the prospective buyer the type of wood used and the place of its origin.

Sitting for hours on end in a parking lot may not seem a very professional marketing tactic, yet for Amirullah it has been fairly lucrative. The last 'Shahi Palank' he brought to Dhaka was sold for TK 45,000. In total he has sold six, all of which were made from his own investment.

Amirullah comes from Sharsha, a village under Jessore district. This is where he spends most of the year making beautiful pieces of furniture in antique styles. It takes from four to six months to make a single bedstead. Once complete, Amtrullah brings it to Dhaka or Khulna or Mymensingh to be sold for a sizeable profit. Materials used include expensive wood such as 'Teek' or 'Shegun' which helps spiral the costs upto about TK 25,000.

Although he did not cross the boundary of

Khetmajur Union

desh Khetmajur Union, Bimal

Biswas and general secretary,

Saiful Haque in a joint

statement Saturday demanded

immediate arrest of the terror-

ists of Jamaat-Shibir-Jubo Co-

from the same quarter at-

tacked the house of Advocate

Nazrul Islam of the union at

Narail. They also said that the

administration did not take

any action despite complains.

They urged all to fight against

Garments Workers

Federation

**Garments Workers Federation** 

in a statement Saturday con-

demned the newly formulated

government policy on gar-

in quota in the use of local

fabrics may have an adverse

effect on garment industry as

it is not always possible to use

Khelaghar Asar

Friday held a special literary

discussion meeting on the oc-

The meeting was presided

casion of World Children Day.

Central Khelaghar Asar on

They said that the increase

The leaders of the National

They said that terrorists

mmand quarter.

these terrorists.

such fabrics.

The president of Bangla-

HERE and THERE

Samajtantrik

Sramik Front

The president of Samaj-

tantrik Sramik Front, Abdullah

Sarcar and general secretary.

Abdur Razzak in a joint state-

ment on Saturday demanded

stoppage to the scheme of vol-

untary retirement from railway

spend money from this re-

tirement scheme to the reha-

bilitation of sick and closed

The general secretary of the

Communist Party of Bangla-

dcsh(CPB) Nurul Islam Nahid

in a statement Saturday con-

demned the arrest of Chhatra

He also demanded immedi-

ate release of all the leaders

including Nawab Ali of Chhatra

Willes Little

Flower School

versity, USA, Dr Ambrose C

Devis visited the Willes Little

Flower School in the capital

academic performance of the

Bangladeshi students specially

the ex-students of the Wills

Little Flower School studying

Dr Ambrose appreciated the

Director of Pensilvania Uni-

Oikyo leaders in Kushtia.

down industries.

They also demanded to

primary school, Amirullah has enough imagi-

Bank in Motifheel, something may seem a little nation to create something unique and beautiful to attract his customers. The designs are all in his mind and never

does he draw them on paper. Working on a wooden plate, Amirullah carves out the patterns which mainly include floral themes or images of birds and dancers. While Amirullah does the creative part, he is helped by apprentices who make the surfaces smooth.

Each piece is made with painstaking care and months of gruelling labour. But the outcome is always a source of pleasure for Amirullah whose skills have made him quite famous attracting orders from rich buyers from all over the country. When there are no orders, Amtrullah does not sit idle. He uses the money he has earned to create a 'Shahi Palank' which is definitely his speciality. The idea is to recreate something from the time of 'Zamindars 'and 'Rajas,' - those times of opulence and lavish living.

Where did he, than learn his skills from? Amirullah replies that he never had an 'ustad' although his father was an ordinary carpenter who made wooden houses. With an eye for beauty and an unusual talent, Amfrullah is more of an artist than a carpenter. When asked if he would like to make furniture with modern designs, replies this self-taught artist, "Yes I would like to bring in traditional patterns to give a touch of antiquity".

Dr Ramizuddin

new MD of

Purbokone Ltd

Chowdhury, one of the

Directors of The Purbokone

Ltd., has been appointed

Managing Director of the

Company in a recent meeting

of the Board of Directors, says

MD of The Purbokone Ltd., Dr

Chowdhury was in the

Government Health Service

and served in many places in-

cluding Chittagong Medical

Office-bearers of

Chest & Heart

Assoc

tee of the Chest and Heart As-

sociation of Bangladesh was

unanimously elected at the re-

cent Annual General Meeting

of the Association, says a press

The office-bearers are:

President, Prof Waltullah, Vice-

Presidents, Prof A K M Sham-

sul Hug, Dr Mohd Scrajul Is-

lam, General Secretary, Dr Asif

Mujtaba Mahmud, Joint Secre-

tary. Dr Mazharul Islam, Dr

Khurshid Alam Hyder, Trea-

surer Dr Mohammad Enamul

Haque. Organising Secretary,

BCS (Admn)

Assoc farewell

By Staff Correspondent

(Administration) Association at

a function Friday bid farewell

to its outgoing President KM

Rabbani, Chief Secretary of the

Prime Minister's Secretariat,

and welcomed the new

President Kamaluddin, mem-

ber of the Planning Commi-

Held at the BCS (Admn)

Academy in the city, the func-

tion included a cultural pro-

gramme participated by the association member.

Sunday

Programme summary

Recitation from the Bible

Programme on S Korean

Sports programme: Cricket

News in Bangla

**National Day** 

Tagore Songs

Probaha

Closing

News in Bangla

Drama scries: Oshin

8.00

10.00

10.30

Al-Quran

Bangladesh Civil Service

Dr Mohammad Saffuddin.

A new Executive Commit-

Before joining the post of

a press release.

College Hospital.

release.

Dr Muhammed Ramizuddin

#### Abolition of Female stevedoring extortionist taken system into custody demanded

KHULNA, Oct 3: A female extortionist, first in greater Khulna, has been taken into custody for prosecution under the Anti-Terrorism Ordinance. reports UNB.

Anjali Rani, 30, is perhaps the lone woman caught by police on charge of extortion since the promulgation of the get-tough ordinance that provides stringent punishment for such offence.

She was picked up on Friday while allegedly raising money without lawful authority in the name of an NGO at a launch ghat in Sharankhola thana of Bagerhat district...

#### JS team leaves for Bahamas

A four-member parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali leaves here today for Bahamas to attend the 38th conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, reports BSS.

Other members of the delegation are: M A Jinnah of BNP Tofacl Ahmed of Awami league and the Additional Parliamentary Affairs Secretary Khandkar

### Minister visits erosion-hit areas

### Padma devours crops worth Tk 6cr at Munshiganj

Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Plood Control Minister M Natid-ul-Haq Saturday visited the rivereroded areas of Lohajang thana of Munshiganj district, reports

CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: Lead-

ers of Chittagong Jatiya Dock

Sramsk League and Chattagram

Port Agents Stevedors and

Contractors Employees Union

today demanded abolition of

stevedoring system and cre-

ation of cargo handling corpo-

ration at Chittagong Port to

ensure smooth functioning of

ence at the Press Club here,

Dock Sramik League presi

dent Jahangir Alam Chowdhury

and general secretary Serajul

Islam and Employees Union President A K M Ziaul Islam

and general secretary Rashid

Ahmed Chowdhury termed the

stevedoring system as a mid-

dleman eating into the vitality

of the port as well as the

workers. They claimed that

abolition of stevedoring system

would save huge amount of

money of the Chittagong Port.

dock workers and stevedores

and contractors employees

would go on indefinite strike

from October 17 if their de-

mand was not met by that

The union leaders said that

Addressing a press confer-

the port, reports BSS.

About 2,575 families were seriously affected in the area and a total of 900 acres of land

had gone under water so far. The area about 40 km near the bank of river Padma, continued to erode affecting eight villages of the thana, an official handout quoting district administration sources said.

Standing crops of aman, jute and others species worth Tk about 6 crore had been eroded by the river.

Meanwhile government has allocated 300 metric tons of wheat and rice, 150 tins of biscuit and 600 pieces of sarees and lungees for the affected people.

The minister said the present government is totally committed to the welfare of the common people. Inspite of resources constraints the problems will be solved in phases, he added.

He distributed some relief materials among the distreased people of the area.

Chairman of the Water Development Board was present among others during the

# What's on today . . . .

Kuwait-Bangladesh Assoc

Kuwatt Repatriated Bangladeshi Association has called a press conference at 5 pm today (Sunday) at the conference room of Jatiya Press Club. It is aimed at protesting non-payment of the UN-announced compensation for those repatriated from Kuwait and Iraq.

#### Nirmul Committee rally

The Demra branch of Ekatturer Chatak Dalal Nirmul Committee will hold wayside rallies and bring out processions today (Sunday) at 4 pm demanding ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics and implementation of Jamaat chief Golam Azam's execu-

Central leaders of the committee will address the rallies.

#### **BD** Cultural Delegation

The final rehearsal of the Bangladesh cultural delegation to participate in the upcoming first South Asian Cultural Festival would be held at the National Museum in the city today (Sunday) at 7 pm.

Bhasani NAP The National Awami Party (Bhasani NAP) holds a discussion meeting at 295 Elephant Road in the city today (Sunday) at 4 pm to mark the party's 17th founding anniversary.

The discussion on the "Changed World And China-

chief Prof Noor Mohammad Kazi and other central leaders.

Bangladesh Relationship" would be addressed by the party

Hawkers Samity rally Bangabandhu Avenue Hawkers' Samity jointly with the Bangabandhu Avenue small traders will hold a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club today (Sunday) at 11 am to protest the

#### Rotary Club of Dhanmondi

The 313rd regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhanmondi will be held today (Sunday) at 5.30 pm at Sonargoan Hotel.

Noted actress Lucky Inam will speak on 'Women's liberation and our society'.

#### Greater Khulna Samity

A meeting of the executive committee of the Greater Khulna Samity (association) in Dhaka will be held today (Sunday) at 5 pm at 60/1, Purana Paltan (1st floor) in the city.

### Weather

continued terrorism, extortionism etc.

# No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Temporary light rain or shower may occur over the regions of Patuakhali, Chittagong and Noakhali and weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday).

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to

remain nearly unchanged over the country. The maximum temperature of 34.7 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi and Iswardi yesterday (Saturday) and the minimum of 20.4 degree Celsius reported from

The sun sets today at 5.43 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.52 The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the major cities and towns of the country

yesterday were: Humidity in Cities/Towns Temperature in Degree Celsius Percentage 6 pm 9 am Dhaka 25.3 Chittagong 30.7 26.0 Rajshahi 25.2 34.7 26.5 Khulna 31.2 24.5 31.8 20.9 24.7 33.0 25.8 34.0 Barisal

# Bangladesh among top 10 to get Japanese aid'

The Embassy of Japan in Dhaka, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh National Museum have jointly chalked out an elaborate programme to make the 20th anand Germany to Bangladesh. niversary of Bangladesh-Japan diplomatic relations, reports

The programme includes Japanese puppet theatre show, Japanese popular folk music, exhibition of contemporary Japanese architecture and photo display on Japanese

A seven-member Japanese puppet theatre troupe arrives Dhaka today (Sunday) to hold their performances on October 5 and 6 at Osmany Memorial Hall, a Japanese Embassy offi cials told newsmen here Saturday.

Japanese popular folk music

performances will be held on October 17 and 18 at Osmany Memorial Hall while exhibition of contemporary Japanese ar chitecture will be held from October 20 to December 8 and exhibition of Japanese photography will be held from December 19 to January 3 at per cent of the total Japanese sulate in Dhaka in 1953.

the National Museum. Second Secretary of the Japanese Embassy Kazumi Endo told newsmen that Japan topped the list of donors followed by United States, Canada

He said Bangladesh received from Japan 449 billion yen as loans, 182 billion yen as grants and 18 billion yen as technical assistance till 1990 since the establishment of diplomatic relations between two counties.

"Bangladesh is among the top ten countries of the world to receive Japanese aid and assistance, he also said.

Speaking about the Japanese private investment in Bangladesh Endo said the amount totalled 57 million US dollar until 1990 mostly concentrated in Chittagong.

About the bilateral trade, he said the Japanese exports to Bangladesh totalled 376 million US dollars while its imports amounted 71 million US

"Shrimp+ covers nearly 60

imports from Bangladesh," he

Endo said Bangladesh nationals living in Japan were 2,274 as of June, 1991 and Japanese nationals living in Bangladesh were 395 as of October, 1991.

After the diplomatic relation established between the two countries on February 10, 1972. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the first Head of the State to visit Japan in 1973. President Ziaur Rahman visited Japan twice while President Hussain Muhammad Ershad visited three times as Head of the

Former Prime Minister of Japan Toshiki Kaifu was first Japanese Head of the Government Bangladesh in 1990 during which he opened the first Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge over the river Meghna.

Bangladesh established its mission in Tokyo on March 3, 1992. The Japanese government established its first con-



An exhibition began at the German Cultural Centre yesterday to mark the German Unification Day. Star photo

#### GCO gheraos DU VC office

By DU Correspondent The Ganatantrik Chhatra

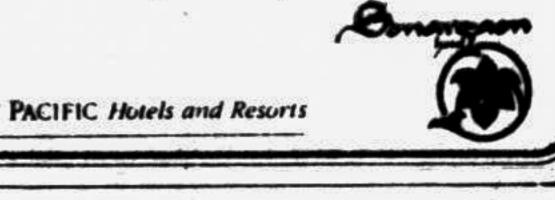
Oikya (GCO) yesterday gheraoed the office of the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University protesting alleged "highhanded-ness" by members of the law enforcement agencies on campus Thursday last.

The GCO activists gheraoed the VC's office at 11am and stayed there for a couple of hours. They also held a rally during the period which was addressed by GCO leaders Obayedur Rahman Chunnu, Abu Aslam Khan, Mushtaq Alam Tulu and Rupom Chowdhury.

The GCO activists denounced the refusal by the Vice-Chancellor to talk to them yesterday and threatened to lock his office and residence.

They also slated the government's failure to meet the 10-point charter of demands of the students.

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## Project Management Organisation **Tender Notice**

Sealed tenders are invited from 'C' class Contractors of Bangladesh Railway enlisted prior to re-organisation of the Railway into two Zones and enlisted 'C' class Contractor of East Zone for (a) At Shahajahanpur/Dhaka:- Construction of 4 units 800 Sft Quarter on the roof of existing Residential Building No CS/1. (b) Approximate cost Tk 9.75/lakh. (c) Earnest money 2% of the quoted price. (d) Cost of per set tender document Tk 400/- (Taka four hundréd) only (Non-refundable). (e) Tender documents will be sold from the office of the Executive Engineer/Project/Track/Dhaka & Executive Engineer/ Project/Chittagong during office hours up to 20.10.92. (f) Dropping and Opening time of the tender will be at 12.00 hours & 12.30 hrs on 21.10.92 respectively in the respective Offices. (g) Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender as a whole or part without

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Chittagong

#### over by the chairman of the the universities in the United Khelaghar Prof Ali Ashgar. States. Bangladesh Railway

yesterday morning.

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