

## What's on today....

**Daily Star award giving ceremony:** The Daily Star has organised an award giving ceremony to honour the brilliant students who achieved outstanding results in O and A level examinations (June '98-June 99 session). Venue: Chartered Accountants' Building Auditorium (9th floor), 100, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 3 pm.

**Artefacts exhibition:** A 19-day long exhibition on artefacts recovered and collected from Mahasthangarh will begin. Organisers: Archaeological Department, French Archaeological Mission, Alliance Française de Dhaka and Bangladesh National Museum. Venue: Temporary exhibition room of the National Museum. State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the exhibition at the Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium of the museum. Time: 4 pm.

**Musical soiree:** Shadhona, A Centre for Advancement of Sub-continental Music will present classical music by Shipra Khan and her disciple Anette Ehmeh Khan. Venue: Muktiyoddha Jadughar. Time: 6:00 pm.

**Memorial Lecture:** Ajit Guha Memorial Council has organised the fourth Ajit Guha memorial lecture to mark his 30th death anniversary. Prof. Sardar Fazul Karim will deliver a lecture on 'Education, Student, Education System and State System'. Venue: VIP Lounge of the National Press Club. Time: 4 pm.

**RMMRU conference:** Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) will inaugurate a 2-day conference on 'Women and children in refugee and refugee like situations in South Asia'. Organisers: RMMRU in association with British Council and UNHCR. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 9:45 am-5:00 pm.

**Birth anniversary:** The Baha'i community will hold a programme to mark the 182nd birth anniversary of Baha'ullah the founder of the Baha'i World Faith. Venue: National Baha'i Centre at 7 Nawraton Colony, Circuit House Road, Shantinagar. Time: 4:00 pm.

**Sanskritik Jote conference:** The fourth biennial conference of Sammilita Sanskritik Jote will be held. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 9:30 am. A cultural function has also been arranged to mark the event. Venue: Fire Arts Institute. Time: 3:00 pm.

**Exhibition:** A 9-day long exhibition of excavated materials and finds from Mahasthangarh and its environs will be inaugurated. Organisers: Department of Archaeology in association with the National Museum, French Archaeological Mission in Bangladesh, Embassy of France and Alliance Française de Dhaka. Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Museum. Time: 4:00 pm.

**SASS conference:** Student Association For Social Service (SASS) will hold its biennial conference. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House-510, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 pm.

**..... and tomorrow**

**Concluding ceremony:** The concluding ceremony of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Notre Dame College will be held. Chief guest: Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal. Special guest: Father William Dorwart, CSC, Provincial, Indiana, Congregation of Holy Cross Priest Society. Rev. Michael Rozario, Archbishop of Dhaka and Chairman of the college governing body will preside over the ceremony. Venue: College campus. Time: 3:45 pm.

**Meeting:** Z H Sikder Cardiac Care and Research Centre will hold a clinical meeting on 'Early Management of Acute Myocardial Infarction'. Venue: Conference hall of centre at Monica Estate, West Dhanmondi. Time: 9:00 am.

**Children's Day:** The High Commission of India organises a variety of activities for children on the occasion of Children's Day, celebrated on the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Venue: India International School premises at Dhanmondi Road no 2. Time: 9:30am

**Weather**

**Dry weather likely**

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, according to Met Office.

The country's highest temperature 32.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and the lowest 14.4 degree Celsius at Sathkira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.14 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.12 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	31.5	18.5
Chittagong	32.0	19.7
Rajshahi	30.0	16.6
Khulna	31.4	18.4
Barisal	31.5	18.6
Sylhet	31.2	21.3
Cox's Bazar	32.0	19.0

**HERE and THERE**

**Biplobi Lila Nagh Birth Centennial Committee**

By Staff Correspondent  
Biplobi Lila Nagh Birth Centennial Committee was formed in a meeting Tuesday with poet Sufia Kamal as advisor of the committee to mark the birth centennial of Lila Nagh.

Lila Nagh, the first female student of Dhaka University, played a pioneering role in the anti-British movement. She was active worker for uplift of women's rights in the subcontinent. She had also established various women's organisations for their welfare.

A central coordination committee was also formed to coordinate the event with Prof. Zillur Rahman Siddique and Prof. Ajay Roy as President and Secretary respectively.

The members of the centennial committee include among others, Prof. Sardar Fazul Karim, Syed Ali Kabir, Santosh Gupta, Prof. Anisuzzaman, Prof. Rangya Lal Sen and Syed Hassan Imam.

**BCS Somonay Committee**

By Staff Correspondent  
The BCS Somonay Committee at a meeting expressed resentment over a recent recommendation made by parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of establishment regarding promotion of 321 cadre posts.

The committee at a meeting on Wednesday regretted that the standing committee made a recommendation to promote a portion of the controversial 321 cadre posts, instead of a consensus decision of the recommendation was made in the presence of only a few members, the committee alleged.

The meeting was presided over by the secretary general of

the committee Chowdhury Khalequzzaman, Agriculturist Nazrul Islam, Prof. Kafil Uddin, Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan GM Nurul Huda, Dr. Mahbubul Haq and Kazi Imadul Haq took part in the discussion.

The speakers urged the government to cancel the government that the decision regarding promotion of the cadre post should be taken on the basis of consensus.

The meeting also demanded cancellation to discriminatory policy regarding quota system in giving promotion to the post of deputy secretary and above. This system should be abandoned and promotion should be given on the basis of merit, the meeting observed.

**Jatiyatabadi Peshajibi Parishad**

By Staff Correspondent  
Jatiyatabadi Peshajibi Parishad has strongly condemned the Prime Minister for her recent remarks on BNP chairperson and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleida Zia.

In a statement yesterday, leaders of the Parishad termed the remarks of the PM as 'undemocratic, and arrogant' and said the PM always gives 'untrue and irresponsible' speeches.

They said the PM's recent remarks about Khaleida Zia made no sense, or humour. The nation does not want to hear this kind of vulgar words from her as a prime minister, they added.

The statement was signed by convenor of the Parishad Abul Quasem Haider, Dr. Syed Rashidul Hassan, Syed Mejbahuddin, Anwar Hossain, Prof. Abdul Latif Masum, Prof. Shahidul Islam, Ayub Hossain Khan and AKM Jannatul Karim.



Sylhet Bibhag Unnayan Parishad yesterday brought out a procession in celebration of the shifting of the proposed NAM summit venue from Osmani Udyan. — Star photo

## Contemporary art

From page 12  
most vibrant modern art movements in Asia.

In tracing the development of Bangladeshi arts, the opening article of the volume touched upon Bengal School as a prelude to the history of modern art of this region and the rise of Bengali Muslim middle-class and how they strove to build their identity. This background survey of arts movement in East Bengal has been supplemented brilliantly by an in-depth look at the class formation in the late 19th and early 20th century.

The following 15 essays have competently covered the subsequent arts scenario.

There is a feature about the teaching of arts in Bangladesh, and the syllabus of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka has also come up for discussion.

The recent phenomenon in the arts scene is the rise of local art buyers who are silently contributing to the kinetic growth of contemporary art. This emerging buyer-class has been separately dealt in a section entitled, 'Art Collectors: Their Views'.

At 80 pages, *Contemporary Art in Bangladesh* (priced at 20 pounds sterling, equivalent to 1620 taka) has done a formidable work to present an account of our artistic pursuit.

This volume has been co-edited by Syed Manzoorul Islam (guest editor in Dhaka) and Azra J Ahmed (coordinating editor in London).

## AL-Siddiqui fight

From page 1  
In fact, *pirt* and *ganchha* are now equally popular to supporters of Siddiqui who is using the symbols in his campaign.

Day labourer Shamsul Haq appeared to be reluctant to comment when he was approached by this correspondent near a shop at Jalkhanar Mor in Shakhipur Sadar. He first spoke about the prospect of AL's symbol 'boat', probably mistaking the team of newsmen as ruling party men. But he later said, 'Pirt has no match here... symbol matters little here... *Bangabir*... He is known by himself'.

Octogenarian shopkeeper Khorshed Ali of the same area said, 'None can suppress *pirt* if voting is fair. Until recently, it was only *ganchha* and *pirt* but now we see 'boat' is also discussed about.'

How can we forget what the *Bangabir* did for us during the war? AL did with a deep sense of emotion.

A vegetable seller at Kachua Bazar, Abdul Bari, also said that the prospect of *pirt* was better than that of 'boat'.

At Bashail, AL changed the voters' mind more than it could do at Shakhipur. 'Until recently, the difference was wider. But intensified AL campaign has narrowed it down to nearly fifty-fifty now,' viewed Ashraf, a poultry feed trader. But rich-shawpuler Samad Mia is confident that none could defeat 'boat'.

AL campaigners said the gap is still 'wider' in Shakhipur where there are a little over 1.25 lakh voters. The gap is 'narrower' in Bashail where there are some 94,000 voters, they said.

The AL continues its efforts at the current pace, they feel, there will be a really close contest in the by-polls.

Some AL campaigners regretted their delayed efforts and admitted that they would have been in less tension about a 'comfortable contest' had they started a little earlier.

But both the leading contenders are hopeful of winning the crucial by-election. Talking to this correspondent, they also alleged that there were incidents of violence between rival activists but the local administration was not taking any action.

'Now I find my position much better than it was earlier. So far, Kader Siddiqui kept the people under a spell, capitalising on his role in the Liberation War. But that spell is now broken and the people are more aware of his true face,' Shahjahan said, accusing Siddiqui of amassing illegal wealth and of doing nothing for the locality.

Elected in the 1986 parliamentary polls, Shahjahan charged Siddiqui with fiddling 22 candidates 'of his choice' to take advantage in the by-polls. These 'dummy' candidates will visit polling centres with cars and rig votes for Siddiqui, he alleged.

'I will ensure development of the area in the next 16 months,' Shahjahan is promising voters.

Kader Siddiqui had less chance against his main rival but accused the ruling party and the local administration of 'arranging everything possible to ensure my defeat'.

He also alleged unfair play on the part of the local administration and feared rigging in the election.

'My struggle is against all immoral practices.... I am contesting the by-polls to see whether the Opposition allegation that elections under the present Election Commission cannot be fair is true or not,' he said, criticising the intensified campaign by ministers.

**BNP threatens**

From page 1  
sleep peacefully at their own houses as police frequently raid their residences under false charges, Bhuiyan added.

Addressing a public rally at Muktangan organised by the city BNP on the occasion of countrywide 'Demonstration Day' to protest killing of BNP activists and firing at leaders and workers.

BNP's alliance partners Jatiya Party held a rally and brought out a procession at Kalabagan while the Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote organised separate rallies and processions at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram and Purana Paltan in observance of the Demonstration Day.

The BNP secretary general warned that if the harassment was not stopped immediately the BNP would resist the police on the spot whenever they went for arresting any party activist.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Annullah Aman, Prof. Nazimuddin Alam, MP, Abdus Salam, Kazi Abul Bashir, Fazlul Haq Milon and Chowdhury Alam.

## Trucks: Systematic extortion

From page 1  
stopped at Savar Bazar bus stand at 18:30 by a man wearing lungi. Three of his friends stood beside the road while every passing truck paid Tk 10. The men said part of the money would go to police and part to the Inter District Truck Drivers Union.

A few km away at Nayarhat under Savar thana, a more organised group stopped the truck with whistles and sticks in hand. This was a toll collection point set up by the Truck Drivers Owners Association, apparently to check overloading of the vehicles. 'You have overloading,' alleged a bearded man wearing a white lungi and shirt and an expensive wrist-watch. The man asked for payment of Tk 200 or to face a 'scale' (weighing device) for Tk 300 and a 'fine' of Tk 500, if found 'overloaded' (beyond 10 tonnes).

On the eastern side of the road, some men were sitting behind a table, keeping account of the earnings. About a dozen others were sitting on a mat inside the 'office', gambling. As the driver bargained, the men said the police rate nowadays was too high and that their 'leader-in-charge' Khalil would not accept a penny less than the amount asked for. For a receipt of Tk 20 and payment of Tk 200, the truck was on its way again.

At 21:40, at the entrance of Manikganj town, an uniformed policeman accompanied by two men sitting on two motorbikes and a man wearing lungi waved at the truck. 'Is your monthly payment clear?' asked the man wearing lungi and holding a torch. The driver took out a small card carrying some signs on its backside. 'Yours is valid until November 6, go on,' said the man. The driver said the 'police payment' of Tk 100 to 300 known as 'monthly' or 'mashik' is acknowledged by a token with a secret sign. The token is usually valid at some similar police check posts in the area for a month. Had the validity of the token expired, another token with a new sign would have been instantly delivered for Tk 100 at Manikganj.

At Magura at 5:07, a policeman with a big torch in his hand was sitting on a bench on the traffic island under a sign-board, which read 'Enlightened Magura'. The 'man in lungi' collected Tk 30 from the truck driver. Toll was collected from each of the 25 trucks that passed at that time, but problem arose when a truck carrying cattle arrived from the western side. In a hurry, the driver handed over the money and drove away. After counting, the man found that it was Tk 100 short of Tk 900 to be collected. The policeman counted the money and asked the man to catch the driver on his return. Then a blue police van arrived with an official in safari suit sitting in it. Within minutes, policemen in the van collected the 'night's income' and went towards Magura town.

At Jessore, the police beat collector, Mansur, complained about his share of Tk one out of Tk 60 for each collection and boasted that unless the Labour

Union helped the police, they (police) would never be able to earn so much.

Police beat at Nawapara under Avoynagar thana collected Tk 40 in similar way. At Chotmole under Fultala thana at around 9 am, a policeman stood on the road while another in civilian dress sat on his motorbike. The traffic policeman watched as the driver handed over Tk 30 to the 'man in lungi' in exchange for a token.

At Shirmoni under Khan Jahan Ali thana, the Truck Owners Association realised Tk 50 for a receipt of Tk 10. Then at 9:45 am, in front of Mohsin Primary School in Khulna, a token was handed over on payment of Tk 80 for the last time on the Dhaka - Khulna truck journey.

Back in Dhaka, Inspector General of Police AYBI Siddiqui, when contacted said that he could not look into such extortion earlier.

But I have issued a permanent order on the officers to refrain from such activities. If there is any specific allegation of such extortion, the culprits will be punished,' He added, 'I am now going on a tour to attend some Interpol engagements, on my return I will look into the matter.'

**Zakir murder**

**Hartal observed at Shyampur**

By Staff Correspondent  
A half-day hartal was observed in the city's Shyampur area yesterday to protest the killing of Jubo Dal leader Zakir Hussain.

Zakir Hussain, 35, was shot dead at Balur Math (ground) under Shyampur thana on Tuesday night.

Shops and business centres in the area remained closed, during hartal hours from 6 am to noon, police and witnesses said.

Inter-district buses on Dhaka and Narayanganj did not ply on the road during the period, witnesses said.

**চাড়া গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট**

**Leather Research Institute**

**BCSIR**

**International Tender Notice**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide foreign supplier/manufacturers etc or their local representatives for supply of the following goods/equipments for the Leather Research Institute of BCSIR, Nayerhat, Savar, Dhaka.

Sl No	Tender No	Short description of goods/equipments	Source of fund	Cost of tender documents
1	LRI/Equipment pur/99-2000/12 (part-2)/Int	Leather processing equipments	Foreign Exchange	750/-

Intending bidders may buy tender documents with details of terms and conditions from the Accounts Officer, Leather Research Institute, BCSIR, Nayerhat, Savar, Dhaka on payment of the price mentioned above up to 13-12-99.

Tender may be dropped into the tender box kept in the office of the Project Director, Leather Research Institute, BCSIR, Nayerhat, Savar, Dhaka or may be sent to the Director by post or courier service as to reach him by 3.00 PM on or before 14-12-99 which will be opened on the date 3.05 PM in presence of the bidders/representatives, if any.

The authority of the Institute reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the items of the tender without assigning any reason.

Project Director  
Leather Research Institute

**Office of the Executive Engineer**

**Barisal O&M Division**

**WDB, Barisal**

**Bid Notice**

1) Bid Notice No : 09/1999-2000.

2) Name of work : Construction of Khasher Khal Drainage-cum-Flushing Sluice (1-1.50mx1.80m) at Ch.11.35 km in Satla-Bagda Project Polder No. 1 during 1999-2000 under IDA & WFP Aided 1998 Flood Damage Emergency Rehabilitation Project (IDA Credit No. 2791-BD), Contract Package No. 328-W6.

3) Description of work :

Bid No.	Contract Package No.	Description of Work	Estimated Cost (Tk.)	Earnest Money (Taka)	Time Allowed (Day)	Eligibility of Contractor
09/99-2000	328-W6	Construction of Khasher Khal Drainage-cum-Flushing sluice (1-1.50mx1.80m) at Ch.11.35 km in Satla-Bagda Project Polder No. 1 during the year 1999-2000.	41,90,020/-	2 1/2% of total amount in the form of Bank Draft, Protirakkha Sanchaypatra in favour of DD/RAC, WDB, Barisal.	150 (One hundred and fifty days)	'A' & 'B' Class.

4) Availability of Bid documents : Sonali Bank, Sagardi Branch, Barisal/WAPDA Branch, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka & Divisional Commissioner's Office, Barisal.

5) BID receiving offices : Office of the Executive Engineer, Barisal O&M Division, WDB, Barisal/Divisional Commissioner, Barisal.

6) Last date of bid selling : Up to 14-12-99 during Office hours.

7) Time & date of bid receiving : Up to 12-00 Noon on 15-12-99.

8) Date & time of bid opening : 13-00 hours on 15-12-99.

9) Price per set of bid document : Tk. 750/- (non-refundable).

PANI-189/1999-2000  
GD-1052

Shamsuddin Ahmed  
Executive Engineer  
Barisal O&M Division  
WDB, Barisal.

## Rotary News

**Seminar**

A seminar on arsenic free water organised by Rotary Club of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka will be held tomorrow at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Minister, LGRD & Cooperatives will be the chief guest in the seminar.

Rtn Iftekharul Alam, Past District Governor and Rtn Ozair Farooq, District Governor, Rotary International, District 3280 Bangladesh will be the special guest & guest of honour respectively in the inaugural session. The inaugural session will be chaired by Rtn M Mo-sharraf Hossain, Past District Governor.

The chief engineer of Public Health Engineering, Quader-uz-zaman will present keynote paper while two other papers will also be presented in the business session by experts from UNICEF & MCC.

**Kalyan Singh resigns**

LUCKNOW, Nov 11: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh today tendered his resignation to Governor Suraj Bhan, reports PTI.

Accompanied by his cabinet colleagues, Kalyan Singh drove to the Raj Bhawan at 0815 hours and submitted resignation letter.

**Qulkhawani**

The qulkhawani of Alhaj Md Rofi Uddin Ahmmed (Saki Miah) will be held tomorrow after Magreb prayers at House No 22, Rd No 13, Sector No 7 of Uttara, says a press release.

Rofi Uddin, from Kaliganj thana under Gazipur district, died on November 8. A *mitad mahfil* will also be held at his village home today.

He has left behind his wife, four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

**Deadline extended**

The last date of registration for the silver jubilee programme of the Dhaka University Marketing Department has been extended till November 16, says a university press release.

**Sanjana wins top prize in Shankar's Int. Children's Competition**

Sanjana Sarwar, a student of Class IX of Sunbeam School, has won the Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Medal in the Shankar's International Children's Competition 1999, says a press release.

She is the daughter of Mr and Ms Golam Sarwar.

**OEHD (Organisation for Education and Human Development)**, an English medium school at Dhanmondi has opened its computer laboratory at its premises recently. The school also held its Parents' Day the same date. Both the events were inaugurated by the former Dhaka University vice chancellor, Prof. Moniruzzaman Mia.