

### What's on today

**Annual Sports Day:** The annual Sports Day and Prize distribution Ceremony '99 of Viharunissa Noon School and College will be held. Chief Guest: Rashed Mosharrar, State Minister for Land. Venue: School premises at 1/A New Bailey Rd. Time: 9:00 am.

**Meeting:** A general meeting of the Bangladesh T&T Board Retired Officers Welfare Association (ROWATEL) will be held. Venue: Conference room of the central office of BTTB. Time: 9:30 am.

**FPAB Awards in journalism '99:** Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) will award its Awards in Journalism '99. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 11:00 am.

**Talk:** Centre for Advanced Research in Social Sciences of Dhaka University will hold a lecture on "Structural Adjustment and Women: Global Perspective." Venue: Seminar room (lecture theatre # 401) of DU. Time: 11:00 am.

**Meeting:** The general committee meeting of Bangladesh Federation of University Women (BFUW) will be held. Venue: Business and Professional Women Club auditorium, 1 New Bailey Road. Time: 3:30 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** A discussion meeting will be held to mark the death anniversary of prominent student leader of late sixties Mohiuddin Ahmed. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, VIP Lounge. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Exhibition:** A photography exhibition titled "Pleasure of life" and a poster exhibition titled "futurebritain" begins. Organisers: Pathshala - the South Asian Institute of Photography and the British Council. Venue: DRK Gallery, House No 58, Rd No 15A, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Screening:** Londoni Koinya, a tele drama, will be premiered. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Nat'l Rabindra Sangeet Festival:** A reception will be accorded to Prof Kabir Chowdhury on the second day of the 11th National Rabindra Sangeet Festival. It will be followed by a cultural show of recitation and music. Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 6:00 pm.

**IUBAT certificate awarding ceremony:** International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) organises the certificate awarding ceremony of the Human Resources Management under the Centre for Management Development (CMD). Venue: IUBAT seminar hall. Time: 6:30 pm.

**PLAGE seminar:** Policy Leadership and Advocacy for Gender Equality project of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs will hold a seminar on "Gender and Electronic Media". Venue: CIRDP auditorium, Chameli House, Tophkana Road.

**Council:** The 3-day long 25th national council session of Bangladesh Girls Guide Association will begin. Venue: Assoc premises at Guide House, New Bailey Rd.

**ASB meeting:** The 8th Biennial general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB) will be held. Chief guest: President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. Venue: ASB auditorium.

### ..... and tomorrow

**Photography exhibition:** Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) of Dhaka University in association with Japanese Embassy in Bangladesh will organise a photo exhibition by Kijuro Yahagi, a Japanese photographer. Venue: Zainul Gallery, IFA. Time: 10:00 am.

**Nat'l Rabindra Sangeet festival:** A reception will be accorded to dance director Rahija Khanam on the 3rd day of the 11th National Rabindra Sangeet Festival. Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha. It will be followed by a cultural show. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 6:00 pm.

### Weather

**Dry weather likely**

Dry weather will prevail over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderate fog may occur over Rajshahi division and river basins of the country. Met Office said adding night temperature may rise slightly over Chittagong division and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 29.2 degree Celsius at Teknaf and the lowest 10.4 degrees at Srirangol.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:41 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:41 am.

Maximum and minimum 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	27.0	16.3	71	44
Chittagong	28.3	15.1	76	60
Rajshahi	26.1	13.5	88	66
Khulna	28.0	13.0	78	72
Barisal	27.6	13.0	79	73
Sylhet	27.9	14.1	75	58
Cox's Bazar	28.4	15.6	68	67

## HERE and THERE

**Disaster Management Bureau**

CHITTAGONG, Jan 26: A day-long divisional level workshop on Disaster Management was held at the local Circuit House yesterday, reports BSS.

Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong ASM Mobaiddul Islam inaugurated the Workshop while Additional Deputy Commissioner Abdus Sattar presided over the inaugural session.

Deputy Commissioners, Civil Surgeons, Additional Deputy Commissioners, District Relief and Rehabilitation officers of eleven districts under Chittagong Division and representatives of the Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) and UNICEF took part in the workshop.

Director General of DMB Mahmudul Haque, Director ABM Abdul Kashed, National Consultant Hamiduzzaman Khan Chowdhury and representative of UNICEF Masud Ahmed took part on subject based discussions in the workshop.

Another training workshop on Disaster Management for the members of the District Disaster Management Committee was held at the same venue yesterday.

About one hundred participants comprising district officials, TNOs, journalists and NGO workers took part in the workshop, jointly organised by the Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) and Chittagong District Administration. The workshop was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Mahmud Hasan, the hand out said.

**Two snatchers caught in Mymensingh**

MYMENSINGH, Jan 26: Two snatchers were caught red handed by their victims with the help of local people in the town as the early hours Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said two youngmen Rubel and Mashur were on their way to Baghmaya from Shambhuganj bridge at 2 am when the muggers Shahin and Kamrul looted a wristwatch and Tk 200 threatening them with a sharp knife.

Local people rushed to the spot hearing the cries of the youth and beat the snatchers. Later they handed over the snatchers to the police.

**Obituary**

Md Shahidullah, a former deputy director of DESA, died of prolonged illness last night at Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital, reports BSS.

He was 65 and is survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters.

The namaz-e-janaza of Md Shahidullah was held at Mughdapa Jami Masjid yesterday morning. Later he was buried at Azampur graveyard.

The quikwanth of the deceased will be held on January 29 after Asr Prayers at his 96/4 North Mughdapa residence.

**Seminar**

By DU Correspondent

A seminar on the "Life and Philosophy of Dr Muhammad Shahidullah" was held at the Arts Building of Dhaka University yesterday.

Professor of Modern Lan-

## JCD demands release of Sylhet unit leaders

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has demanded immediate release of its Sylhet Government College unit President Wasimuzzaman Rani and General Secretary Dewan Zakir Hossain Khan.

In a joint statement yesterday, Monjur Elahi and Munsir Eazul Basit Anju the acting president and general secretary of JCD also demanded release of the other arrested leaders of Sylhet district JCD including Minhaz Ahmed, Razib Ahmed, Shafiq Ahmed, Shakil Morshed, Kayanun Ahmed, Justice, and the presence of government has chosen a path of repression and harassment apprehending the on-going opposition sponsored out-governments movement," the JCD leaders said in the statement.

The JCD leaders also demanded withdrawal of false cases filed against its arrested leaders and activists.

## CU asst proctor submit resignation

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 26: One of the assistant proctor of Chittagong University (CU) submitted resignation to the authorities last night.

The reason behind the resignation of Didarul Alam could not be known.

Meanwhile, four bombs exploded in front of the Vice-Chancellor's residence in the city at around 9:30 pm.

It was alleged that Islami Chhatra Shibir activists made the bomb attack. However, no casualty was reported.

Shibir terrorists also gave a threat of death to Proctor Gazi Saleh Uddin.

## Nari Samaj

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ari had been involved in the TSC incident, that was why he made the remarks to save his cadres staying at Shahidullah Hall of Dhaka University," the leader added.

The women leaders termed the proposed public safety law as a "black law" and said that the law was being made to use it more as a political weapon than anything else. They also urged the government to refrain from processing the law.

## Pak CJ

From page 1

of emergency rule it is illegal to challenge any actions of the army.

By asking judges to be sworn in again under the provisional constitution, the army ensures that legal challenges to its rule will not be admitted in court.

"This is certainly the most major development since the military coup," said Abdul Haliz Pirzada, a constitutional lawyer. "There was tension between the court and the chief executive," which is the title Musharraf has taken.

Pirzada did not elaborate. However, there have been several legal incidents in recent weeks. The Supreme Court and provincial High courts have entertained petitions from ousted politicians, who are challenging army rule.

The Shariah Court has ruled that Pakistan's banking system is against the tenets of Islam and ordered the army government to impose a new system. Two weeks ago High Court Judge Shabir Ahmed refused to hear the criminal case of hijacking in southern Karachi against Sharif to protest the presence of intelligence agents and paramilitary soldiers in his courtroom.

The last time Pakistan's judges were asked to retake their oath of office under a provisional constitution was during the rule of Gen Mohamed Zia-ul Haq, Pakistan's previous military ruler. Zia ruled with an iron hand for 11 years until his death in a mysterious plane crash in 1988.

Those who defied Musharraf's orders immediately cease to be judges, explained Pirzada.

Meanwhile, the former Chief Justice who defied the army general said his loyalties are with Pakistan's original constitution.

In an interview at his home in the federal capital, surrounded by legal volumes, Siddiqi said his loyalty to the country's constitution was well known to the army chief, with whom he met on Oct 13 - the day after the coup.

"I told him then that I will work only under the constitution and I agreed with me," said Siddiqi.

Under the rules Siddiqi is now no longer a judge.

But Siddiqi said he won't submit his resignation.

"I have not resigned. I have refused to take oath under the provisional constitution because it would mean that I am deviating from my earlier oath," he said. "I am absolutely satisfied. I have repeated this position a number of times."

Several lawyers expressed outrage at the army chief's orders.

"It's a coup against the judiciary," said Fakharuddin Ibrahim, a constitutional lawyer and a former governor of southern Sindh province.

"When sensitive issues are being heard this order has been passed," he said, referring to legal challenges to the army's rule in Pakistan.

On Jan 31, the Supreme Court was scheduled to begin hearing one challenge.

## Eviction of Amtali slum in violation of HC verdict condemned

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties have strongly protested the sudden eviction of Amtali slum at Mohakhali yesterday in violation of a High Court's prohibition.

In a statement yesterday, Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain and General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik said that the government had bulldozed the Amtali Jhilpar slum yesterday and without giving any notice or time to the dwellers to remove their belongings.

Dr Kamal, who fought a legal fight in favour of slum dwellers during eviction of the slum in August last year, said the government through evicting the slums has completely violated the High Court verdict prohibiting eviction without proper rehabilitation.

The Gano Forum leaders in their statement termed the act as disregard of court verdict, judiciary and democracy. They strongly demanded immediate



Sigma Huda speaking at a press conference, organised by Sammilita Nari Samaj, at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. -Star photo

## 'Cooperative Movement to be strengthened'

State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives Amiyanshu Sen, Registrar of the Directorate S M Shamsul Alam, Joint Secretary of the Ministry Dr Joyrab Begum and Kazi Riyazul Haque, among others also spoke on the occasion.

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"After assuming power, the present government has been relentlessly working for rapid development of the country," the state minister said and added that different development projects like Arayan, 'Back to Home and Shanti Nilash' are being implemented to change the fate of the rootless poor.

He said the cooperative movement has an important role to play in making the country self-reliant in food by making available agricultural inputs, loans at nominal interest, irrigation facilities and improved technology for cultivation and high yield variety seeds to the poor peasants.

He said the present government has already started rehabilitation and self-employment activities in 136 thanas under 54 district across the country through Arayan projects and construction work of 100 barracks is going on full swing to rehabilitate the rootless people in phases.

## No response to EC

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stressed the need for Election Expense Observers to scrutinise day-to-day expenditure of candidates to effectively restrict the pernicious role of money in the elections. "Each observer, at least of the rank of deputy secretary or equivalent, may look after a reasonable number of constituencies."

The EC noted, "A lot of candidates having scant regard for the existing law are unhesitatingly making expenditure much in excess of the legal limit of Tk three lakh. ... Indiscriminate use of money by some denies a good number of better qualified and more competent persons to represent and serve the people of their constituency."

The Commission further noted, "A concocted amount is submitted by a good number of contesting candidates merely to give an impression that a correct account of expenses reflecting day-to-day expenditure as per law has been recorded". But most of the informed citizens believe that the return of election expenses submitted by candidates might, on strict scrutiny, reveal that many candidates do not keep true records of day-to-day expenditure as specified as required by law."

In this regard, it also observed that persons with money power having no political background or record of public/social service manage to obtain nomination from parties after making hefty donations. It is not also unheard of

## High Court issues rule nisi on Information Secy, BSS management

The High Court has issued rule nisi on Information Secretary and management of the official news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha to show cause within four weeks why the retirement order of former MD and Chief Editor should not be declared illegal, reports UNB.

A High Court bench comprising Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Justice MA Aziz issued the rule on Monday on a writ filed on October 26 by Husain-uz-Zaman, the former Chief Editor who is now a news editor of BSS.

He was elevated to Managing Director and Chief Editor in 1996 and continued in the office till 1998. Following his removal, Zaman filed a writ before the High Court, but later withdrew it when re-appointed chief of the organisation in 1998.

He was later again relieved of the post in April 1999 and sent on retirement by the Ministry of Information as he reached the age of 60.

The High Court also stayed the operation of the impugned order initially for three months and ordered for analogous hearing along with other writ petitions now pending before the court.

Advocate Subrata Chowdhury conducted the case while Advocate Promila Biswas, BA Rashid, SM Asadullah Tariq and Nahid Sultana Juthi assisted him.

## Edn board's move

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taken this time.

Public Examinations Act would be followed strictly from this year's examinations and legal actions coupled with other measures would be taken to curb offences of negligence regarding examination affairs.

Moreover, the government decided to bring about major changes in public examination system, with new style of question papers of secondary and higher secondary examinations from this year.

The government created a 10-point plan and trained 600 authors and moderators to implement it in order to prevent cheating and improve the standard of education.

No question paper will be produced, since it is in note or guidebooks available on the market.

For better evaluation broad types of questions will be split into parts, such as Ka, Kha, Ga as in the subjects in Science, for students in the humanities and commerce.

Figures of sums will be changed from the textbooks in making question papers of mathematics.

Special vigilant teams from the board will make surprise visits in examination centres. If any teacher or official is injured when resisting unfair means, respective boards will bear medical expenses as of previous years.

The boards are also hunting for fake certificates and registrations. Dhaka Board officials identified 609 college and 136 madrasah students this year who got admitted to colleges with fake SSC marksheets, board officials said.

They continued classes for last two years without any hindrance but were caught during scrutiny while registering for this year's HSC examinations. Like Dhaka Board, other boards are also looking into such forgeries.

ATM, Sharif Ullah who also is the acting chairman of Madrasah Board, has formed special task force to scrutinise

## 2 teachers of Tangail Medical Training School suspended

TANGAIL, Jan 26: Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim has asked the authorities to suspend two lecturers from Tangail Medical Assistant Training School for negligence, reports UNB.

The minister gave the order as he found the two teachers absent from their duties during his surprise visit to the school on Tuesday.

He also found the principal of the school absent and asked the authorities to issue show-cause notice on him. The minister came to know that the principal went on leave without the permission of the authorities concerned.

The Health Minister also ordered immediate transfer of an officer assistant of the institution as he had been working at the same station for long.

Sheikh Selim also paid a surprise visit to Mirzapur Thana Health Complex and expressed dissatisfaction over the unhygienic atmosphere in the complex.

The Health Minister also visited Tangail Sadar Hospital, Welfare Institute and Family Planning Centre.

Chayan Islam MP, Director General of the Health Directorate Anshullah and District Civil Surgeon accompanied the minister during the visit.

## Int'l film representatives call on DU VC

By DU Correspondent

A group of film representatives from different countries who came to the capital to attend the on-going 6th Dhaka International Film Festival paid a courtesy call on Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury at the latter's office yesterday.

The representatives include Peter Cargin, secretary of British Branch of International Federation Film critics and Vice-Chairman of International Federation of Film Societies Peter Cargin, Shaoyi Sun of Asia Pacific Media Centre of the University of Southern California, Evelyn Vargas Executive Director of Pinyo Magic Lantern and Sudhir Bose, renowned film critic and scholar of India.

## Spl court set up in Khulna

KHULNA, Jan 26: A special court has been formed here to expedite the trial of serious crimes, reports UNB.

Additional District and Session Judge MA Hasan has been appointed as the Judge of the court that began judicial process on Tuesday.

## Dhaka to get Tk 2.58cr grant from EC

The European Commission (EC) has approved a grant of Taka 2.58 crore (496,000 euros) for rehabilitation of the flood-affected people in 27 unions of four thanas in the districts of Bogra, Netrokona, Chandpur and Kishoreganj, an EU press release said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The project will involve households from the poorest sections of the rural areas affected by flood and will directly benefit at least 20,000 families.

The project will start in February this year and will be implemented over a 12-month period.

Under the project, 230-km village link roads will be reconstructed creating 100,000 mandays work. The fund will also be used to repair 4,500 houses and reconstruct 265 child education centres will be repaired or reconstructed.

The release said 260,000 trees (timber and mulberry) would be planted on roadsides.

Assistance will be provided to 10,000 families for vegetable cultivation and rabi crop cultivation. Some 200 banana cultivators will be provided disease-free tissue culture microtube plants.

Training will be provided to 200 staff and beneficiaries for enhancing their professional skills. Finally a revolving loan fund will be provided to give loans to marginal and small farmers to enable them to cultivate seasonal crops again.

The project will be implemented by the Institute of Integrated Rural Development (IIRD), a leading NGO of the country. The Head of Delegation of the European Commission Ambassador Antonio De Souza Menezes presented the contract to the Executive Director of IIRD Md Hasan Ali at a function held at the EC Delegation Office here.

## Teachers Plate final

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enabling New Zealand to sneak Hannan Sarker's team past into the eight-team Super League.

The bewildered South Africans however regrouped themselves for the battle of the consolatory Plate title. They ambled into the final winning all their three group league matches against Americas, Ireland and the Netherlands. The pre-tournament favourites then easily beat Zimbabwe in the semi-final on January 25.

Bangladesh meanwhile showed a tremendous turnaround en route to the final. They beat Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe with consummate ease. They then outclassed Ireland by 67 runs in the semi-final to set up a date with South Africa.

Bangladesh won the Plate title in South Africa two years back.

## Teachers

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The Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) and Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) are yet to supply water and electricity at the Udyan, teachers complaint.

Earlier, BNP leaders send chitra and molasses for the agitating teachers.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party Secretary General Najtur Rahman Manju and Jamaat Secretary General Matjur Rahman Nizami went to Osmani Udyan separately and expressed their solidarity with the agitating teachers.

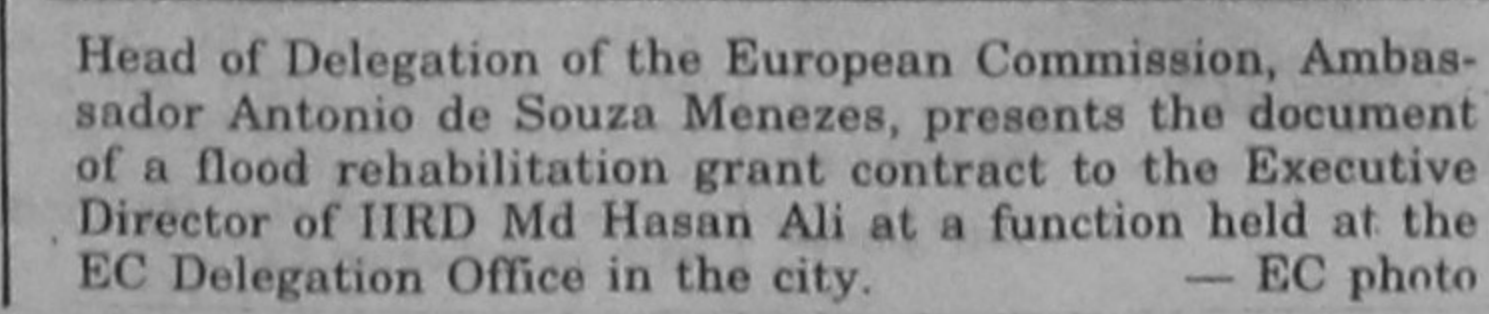
## Sharif

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Pakistan's largest province of Punjab.

The accused arrived at the heavily guarded Karachi Municipal Corporation building where the trial is being held. In armored personnel carriers, dozens of police with automatic rifles were positioned on nearby rooftops and on the road outside the building there were scores of police and paramilitary soldiers in bullet proof vests and wielding weapons.

(See also page-10)



Head of Delegation of the European Commission, Ambassador Antonio de Souza Menezes, presents the document of a flood rehabilitation grant contract to the Executive Director of IIRD Md Hasan Ali at a function held at the EC Delegation Office in the city. - EC photo