

What's on today....

BISS dialogue: Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) will hold a dialogue on "European Union Development Cooperation in Bangladesh". Chief guest: Joaquim Antonio Miranda da Silva, MEP and Chairman of Development and Cooperation Committee of European Parliament. Venue: BISS auditorium. Time: 4.00 pm.

CPE seminar: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) will organise its mandatory CPE seminar for its members. The seminar will be on "Salient features and implications of changes made in income tax ordinance 1984 by Finance Act 2000 and amendments to income tax rules and SRO's issued after budget of 1999". Venue: ICAB auditorium. Time: 5.00 pm.

Contemporary Spanish Film Session: On the second day of Carlos Saura Retrospective Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen "Carmen" and "Ay! Carmela" by Carlos Saura. Venue: Goethe Institut, Road No 9, Dhannondhi. Time 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm respectively.

..... and tomorrow

Book launching ceremony: Bangla Academy will hold the launching ceremony of *Kishore Biswathapatya*, a book in Bangla on world architecture for the youth by Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed. Venue: Winter Garden of Hotel Sheraton. Time: 4.15 pm.

Contemporary Spanish Film Session: On the concluding day of the Carlos Saura Retrospective Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Outrage*. Venue: Goethe Institut auditorium, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhannondhi R/A. Time: 5.30 pm.

Film show: High Commission of India will screen *Ishwar*. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House No 25, Road No 2, Dhannondhi R/A. Time: 6.15 pm.

Pedro Almodovar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Labyrinth of Passions* (Labyrinth of Passion) by Pedro Almodovar on the 2nd part of its Contemporary Spanish Film Session. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhannondhi R/A. Time: 7.30 pm.

Weather

Downpour likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet and at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in next 12 hours till 6pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy rainfall is also likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions. Met office said predicting day temperature may slightly fall over the country during the period.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.0 degree Celsius at Madanpur and the lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Rangpur and Syedpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.59 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.46 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	31.8	27.1	86	96
Chittagong	32.0	25.0	78	93
Rajshahi	30.7	26.8	87	95
Khulna	32.8	25.5	83	85
Barisal	32.0	25.6	83	98
Sylhet	27.0	24.4	100	100
Cox's Bazar	31.5	25.0	92	92

HERE and THERE

EWU
The orientation programme for the freshmen of East West University (EWU) was held at its premises in Dhaka on September 16 with the Vice Chancellor M Monwarul Islam in the chair, says a press release.

The vice chancellor, at the outset of his speech, welcomed the freshmen.

"You should maintain congenial academic atmosphere, code of conduct and learn English and Mathematics to become world class citizens," he said this while addressing the function.

Among others, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Mohammad Musa, Firdaus Ali, Registrar and Dean of Faculties Dr Sultan Ahmad also spoke.

Siddheswari Puja committee

A 51-member Siddheswari Sarbajit Puja Committee has been formed recently with Asit Baran Saha and Shekhar Lal Goswami as its president and general secretary respectively, says a press release.

The committee was formed at a meeting on the occasion of upcoming Durga puja festival.

Other office-bearers of the committee are: Nirmalendu Roy Chowdhury - treasurer; Biplob Dixit - organising secretary; Milon Bhattacharya - cultural secretary; Uttam Shil - publicity secretary; Samir Chandra Shil - literary & publication secretary and Manik Tewari - office secretary.

Rickshaw Sramik League

A 30-member executive committee of Dhaka City unit of Rickshaw Sramik League has been formed unanimously with Mohammad Azhar Ali and Mohammad Insur Ali as its president and general secretary respectively, reports BSS.

The committee was declared at the biennial conference of the league held in the auditorium of BWDB here yesterday, according to a press release yesterday.

Other office bearers of the committee are: Organising Secretary - Mohammad Rabiul Islam, Publicity Secretary - Mohammad Abdul Hanan Chowdhury, Finance Secretary - Mohammad Bacchu Mian, Office Secretary - Mohammad Abdul Wadud and Law Affairs Secretary - Mohammad Zahir Mian.

Postal network to be expanded

State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday called upon the employees of the postal department to incorporate new technology for surviving in the present competitive world market, reports BSS.

Traditional concept of postal communication must be changed with incorporation of information technology to provide better service to the people. Dr Alamgir told the representative council of Bangladesh Postal Extra Departmental Employees Union at GPO auditorium in the city.

Referring to the Tk 90 crore annual subsidy to the postal department, Dr Alamgir urged the employees to make the service profitable so that the government could increase salary of the extra departmental employees.

Dr Alamgir said the government has a massive plan to expand the network and coverage area of postal department, especially in remote hill and char (shoal) areas. Many new post offices are being opened and old ones renovated every year, he added.

EU food aid programme

European Union has allocated 50,000 metric tons of wheat and 17 million euro, equivalent to Tk 82 crore, as part of its current food aid programme in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

ERD Secretary Dr AKM Masulur Rahman and Ambassador Antonio de Souza, head of the delegation of European Commission in Dhaka, exchanged official letters in this regard yesterday.

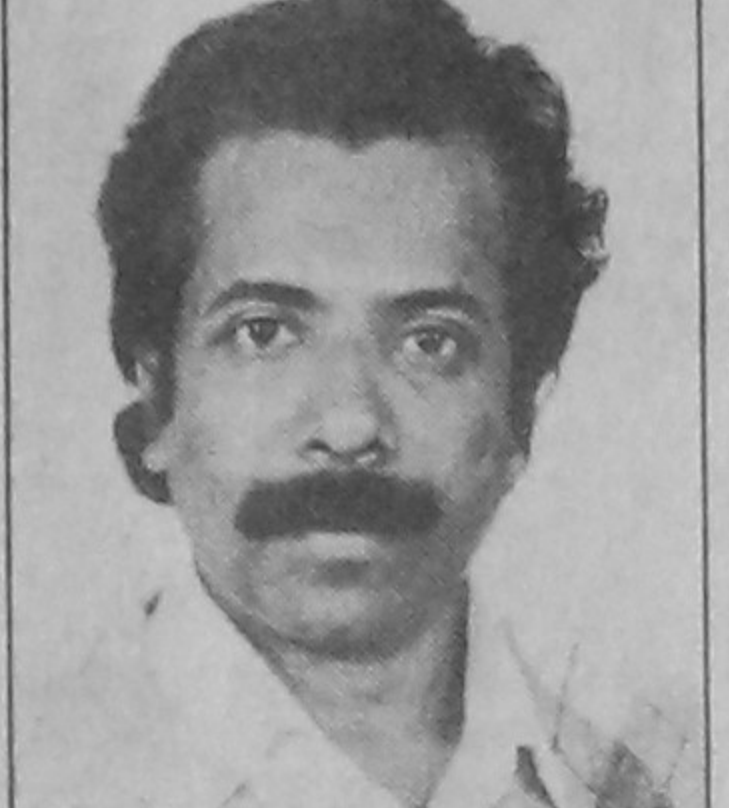
The food aid will be distributed to destitute women through the VGD (vulnerable group development) programme in Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Naogaon and Rajshahi districts.

The financial support will be used for employment generation programmes for the poor, NGO programmes for marginal farmers and for technical assistance.

In recent years, EU food aid policy has been integrated into a more comprehensive development policy that made the food aid a tool of supporting agricultural and rural development.

Admission test of Health Tech Instt Sept 22

Admission test of the Institute of Health Technology for 1999-2000 session will be held at Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute at 10am on September 22, said an official handout, reports UNB.



Shihab Sarkar wins Nurul Qader Literature Award

Poet and novelist Shihab Sarkar has been awarded M Nurul Qader Juvenile Literature Award 2000 for his novel, *Haat Baraet Surja*, a fiction based on the Liberation War, says a press release.

He received the award at a function held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy on Friday. Two other authors, Dwijen Sharma and Anir Liton, were also honoured with the same award.

Rokeya Qader, Chairperson of M. Nurul Qader Foundation, presided over the award-giving ceremony while Dr Anisur zaman was present as chief guest. Rahat Khan, Golam Kibria, DG of Shishu Academy, artists Hashem Khan and Kalidas Karmakar attended the function as special guests.

The award has been instituted in memory of late M. Nurul Qader, a valiant Freedom Fighter and an organiser of the Liberation War.



Obituary

Mahfuza Banu, General Manager of Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation died at the Jashak Hospital at Bombay, India on September 13. She was 47, says a press release.

She is survived by her husband, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Mahfuza was buried at Uttara graveyard yesterday after her namaj-e-janaza.



Death anniversary

The 29th death anniversary of Shaheed engineer Nazrul Islam, a freedom fighter, will be observed today, says a press release.

During the Liberation War, he conducted an operation to blow up five power stations in Dhaka. He was also an adviser to the newly formed Bangladesh government in 1971.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, *Qurankhuani* and a *milad mahfil* will be held at his residence and at his son's business organisation at 204/A Tejgaon Industrial Area.

Allocation in health sector third largest in the world

Minister reiterates government's commitment to health for all at workshop on PHA 2000

By Staff Correspondent

"The Bangladesh government has enhanced budgetary allocation in health sector by increasing the amount to Tk 6000 or this year from Tk 5100 or in the previous year which can be termed as the third largest budget in the world."

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Professor Dr M Amanullah said this at a workshop held at the IDB Bhaban at Agargaon in the city yesterday.

The minister further said, "Despite lots of obstacles we have also certain achievements. In 1986 Bangladesh invented the oral saline, the cheapest cure of diarrhoea in the world. In 1971, maternal mortality rate was 147 per thousand. In 1996 it went down to 82 per thousand, while it decreased to 57 per thousand during '96-2000 period."

A number of acid survivors, sex workers, grass-root level NGO workers, slum-dwellers, doctors, health activists, bureaucrats and policy makers including ministers participated in the day-long workshop held at IDB Bhaban at Agargaon in the city yesterday. The workshop was organised as part of the preparatory activities of the People's Health Assembly 2000 that will be held in Dhaka from December 4-8.

Bangladesh participants

will contribute to the formulation of a global public health charter at the assembly. The workshops are being held to identify the social issues that are integrated with health issues that will be presented in the December meet to help formulate the health charter.

"I was married three years ago with a dowry of Tk 10,000 and a bicycle," Renumala, who hails from a village of Sherpur, told the workshop while describing how her marriage turned into a nightmare. The raw wounds on Renumala's face is scary to look at. She could hardly see through her severely damaged eyes and the juices fell off her wounds as the acid burn victim in her twenties described her plight.

"Soon after my marriage, my in-laws began to demand Tk 20,000 more. Because of my father's inability to pay, I was continuously tortured. Finally unable to bear anymore, I divorced my husband on September 1, 1997 and returned to my parental home."

Two days later, at around 3.30 am, I suddenly felt a burning sensation all over my body. My groaning woke my father and when he lit the torch, he found acid all over me. I saw my husband and his friend running away," she said while sharing her trauma.

However there is no denying the fact that there will be some price to pay for Sheikh Hasina's speech. Gen. Musharraf's reaction, though unjustified, is not surprising. There is bound to be some strain in our relationship with his government as a result. Bangladesh's acceptability to the rulers of Pakistan will obviously dip a few notches. But it is our belief that

Bangladesh's acceptability to the PEOPLE of Pakistan will rise enormously.

For the people of Pakistan have suffered enormously at the hands of its military. We are aware that Nawaz Sharif's government had become unpopular because of misuse of power but can that justify the military taking power?

John Major at one point of his tenure as the PM had a acceptance rate of 13 per cent. Would that be justification enough for the British military to take over running of the government? In effect this means that the right of the people to choose their government is taken away from them. The military comes as the 'big judge' to tell the people what is good for them.

Therefore we are convinced that people of Pakistan and may not be the military government of the day, will find Bangladesh's position far more acceptable than Gen. Musharraf's.

We back the PM for her Millennium speech, because we really must build a global coalition against military takeover of civilian governments. If we believe, and we do, and the world says that it does, that democracy, with all its flaws, is the best government ever invented by human ingenuity then we must be able to speak out against those who subvert it. And the military remains as the only source, though greatly reduced, of subverting democracy.

There was also the need to say something universal, principled and in tune with the contemporary world to attract global attention. We cannot overlook the fact that Sheikh Hasina was in the same platform as were so many other more powerful and famous leaders and that she was in competition with all of them for global attention and recognition. She had to say something that was in tune with humanity's aspiration for greater freedom and the spirit of democracy that is sweeping the world. Considering all this we think our PM made a very clever choice of the subject of her speech that not only projected our strong commitment to democracy but also strengthened our profile as a member of the world community sharing common goals of democracy and freedom.

Pakistan was one of the first countries that fell victim to the Cold War rivalry of the Super Powers. General Ayub's coup in 58 destroyed not only the future of democracy in Pakistan but the future of the country itself, as was pointed by the Hamdard Rahman Commission in 1972 whose part of the report saw the light of the day recently. (It was serialised in The Daily Star). Bangladesh, then East Pakistan, was a direct victim of that military takeover and all the subsequent ones. Pakistan military's venom

structured all the senior police officers... to annihilate the NLD by December 2000," the Bangkok-based All Burma Students' Democratic Front said in a statement earlier.

The officers were instructed to use any possible means of force necessary to terminate the NLD, a policy that will "ruin the process of national reconciliation," the statement said.

Since 1988, the Yangon junta, which took over from aging dictator Ne Win and which groups 19 high-ranking military officers, has signed ceasefire agreements with most of the ethnic minority militias which used to wage war on the central government.

These deals have left the NLD, which won a landslide victory in free elections in 1990, as a lone voice of opposition in the tightly controlled country. The election result was annulled by the junta.

APSU

From page 1
But railway sources said that train service to and from Chittagong was as usual.

Major shopping arcades and markets in the city were closed while few private and public offices functioned with thin attendance. Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong port remained suspended though cargo handling was carried out in some ships inside the jetty, port sources said.

APSU supporters organised rallies at different places during the shut down. However anti-hartal rallies were organised by Jubo League and BCL activists at New Market crossing.

Nasim asks CID officers to work with dedication

Minister for Home and Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim yesterday asked CID officers to work against crimes with more efficiency and dedication, reports BSS.

Speaking at a quarterly review meeting on crimes at CID headquarters, Nasim said the CID is entrusted with the tasks of probing into the cases considered as complex and sensational and also cases which the government thinks are significant.

Sumon's cadre is patronised by police and the administration. Earlier, Sumon also chopped off the limbs of a person in the area and left the locality, some people said.

According to some sources, Sumon is involved in sale of drugs and renting of arms in the area. He also used to collect toll from nearby markets, garment factories and bus stand.

The gang led him used the Rifle Club as their den to collect ransom money from their kidnap victims, alleged a section of local people. Many of the victims later fled the area in fear, they said.

A bittersweet day

From page 1
don't think the world record will last that long," van den Hoogenband said. "Hopefully one day."

Americans Tom Dolan and Brooke Bennett followed the Dutch treat by winning the men's 400m individual medley and the women's 400m freestyle. Dolan breaking his own six-year-old world record in the process.

Domenico Fioravanti also added Italy's first gold medal ever in the pool by taking the men's 100m breaststroke final.

So again and again it all came back to the pool where five other world records were broken on the first night of competition Saturday.

"It's a fast pool you just go out and take advantage of it," offered US backstroke Lenny Krayzelburg by way of explanation.

Europeans dominated the cycling track today, but it was French star Arnaud Tournant who stole the limelight.

A day after the favourite missed out on a 1,000m time trial medal, he took the podium at the Dunc Gray Velodrome alongside teammates Laurent Gagne and Florian Rousseau after outpacing Britain for gold in the Olympic sprint, a debut event.

But it was the 1,000m world record holder's reaction to the victory that served as a magnet for the cameras - he broke down in tears.

Japan's early stranglehold on the judo was snapped as Cuban Legnir Verdecia won the women's under-52kg title and Hussein Ozkan of Turkey won the men's under-66kg gold.

There was another poignant scene as the triathlon completed its thrilling debut at the Olympics, when courageous Canadian Simon Whitfield bounced back from a crash in the bike leg to win a golden sprint showdown that featured none of the big-name favourites.

"I felt great getting back up and did what I had to do - I yelled something at someone but it wasn't a huge drama," beamed the patriotic Whitfield.

As Whitfield celebrated, Jamaican sprint legend Melrose Ottey appeared set to get her wish to run in the individual

BCL factions trade fire on CU campus

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept 17: Tension prevailed at CU as two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) traded fire on the campus last night.

The supporters of AZM Nasir group clashed with Mamun faction for taking possession of a room at Shah Amanat Hall at about 11.30 pm, campus sources said.

However, no casualty was reported.

Security was tightened with deployment of police force on the campus to avoid fresh violence.

People's health affected by degradation of environment

Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said yesterday that the health of poor people are affected most severely due to environmental degradation, reports BSS.

The Minister was addressing the inaugural function of the Dhaka Divisional workshop on the forthcoming People's Health Assembly-2000 to be held from December 4 to 8 in Bangladesh. The workshop is organised by Proshika, a non-government organisation working in the field of human resources development.

The Environment Minister said people's health depend on environment. She said whenever the environment is destroyed the poor section of the world suffer the most.

Double murder

From page 1
cident might have been linked with sharing of toll money, but they could not confirm it.

Local people blamed police for negligence of duty saying that they refused to take any action against the accused despite repeated requests from a victim's family before the incident took place.

Some of them said Sumon murdered the two youths to 'create a reign of terror' in the area.

They also said Sumon identifies himself as 'convener' of the city unit of Ghatk Dalal Nimul Committee while his mother claims herself to be a 'friend' of the Prime Minister as 'they had studied in the same school'.

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Zinjira

From page 12
Paying tributes to the people of the area who sacrificed their lives in the War of Liberation, Hasina said a memorial plaque commemorating the liberation war martyrs would be set up at Zinjira.

The new exchange is part of the Greater Dhaka Telephone Project.

The first tele-link with Zinjira was established in 1972 with the setting up of a hundred-line manual exchange.

Under the new exchange, which replaces the antiquated one, the existing 800 analogue telephones would be converted to digital ones free of cost, besides providing 2,200 new connections.

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