

News

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: Joaquin 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, Dhammudi. Time 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm respectively.

..... and tomorrow

Book launching ceremony: Bangla Academy will hold the launching ceremony of *Kishore Biswajitapata*, 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, Dhammudi 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, Dhammudi R/A. Time: 6.15 pm.

Pedro Almodovar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Laberinto de Pasiones* (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, Dhammudi R/A. Time: 7.30 pm.

Weather

Downpour likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower 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 33.0 degree Celsius at Madaripur 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	83
Rajshahi	30.7	26.8	87	96
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 freshers of East West University (EWU) was held at its premises in Dhaka on September 15 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 freshers.

"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 Sultana Ahmad also spoke.

Siddheswari Puja committee

A 51-member Siddheswari Sarbojan Puja Committee has been formed recently with Asit Baran Sahai 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 Durga puja festival.

Other office-bearers of the

committee are: Nirmalendu Roy Chowdhury - treasurer; Biplob Dixit - organisational secretary; Milon Bhattacharya - cultural secretary; Uttam Shil - publicity secretary; Samar 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 Ihsan 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 Rabibul Islam, Publicity Secretary - Mohammad Abdul Hanan Chowdhury, Finance Secretary - Mohammad Bachus Mian, Office Secretary - Mohammad Abdul Wadud and Law Affairs Secretary - Mohammad Zahir Ali.

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 revolution of information technology and telecommunications, Dr Alamgir said the traditional idea about postal services has been changed now. So e-mail has been introduced in the main post offices in the country, he added.

Editor of Daily Arthanithi Zahiduzzaman Farrouk, GPO Additional Director Generals Md Khan and Sheikh Sanauullah, Secretary General of the Union MA Hakim, leaders of the union Abul Hashem, Tofazzel Hossain, MA Hakim and Nurul Amin also spoke on the occasion.

The council session was presided over by President of the union Abdul Gani Chowdhury.

Zahiduzzaman Farrouk called for utilising about 30,000 extra departmental employees of the postal department by increasing their salaries at subsistence level.

The secretary general of the union urged the government to increase honorarium of the extra departmental workers, introduce festival bonus and form a separate commission for the betterment of the postal workers at rural level.

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 Masilur Rahman and Ambassador Antonio de Souza, head of the delegation of European Commission in Dhaka, exchanged official letters in this regard yesterday.

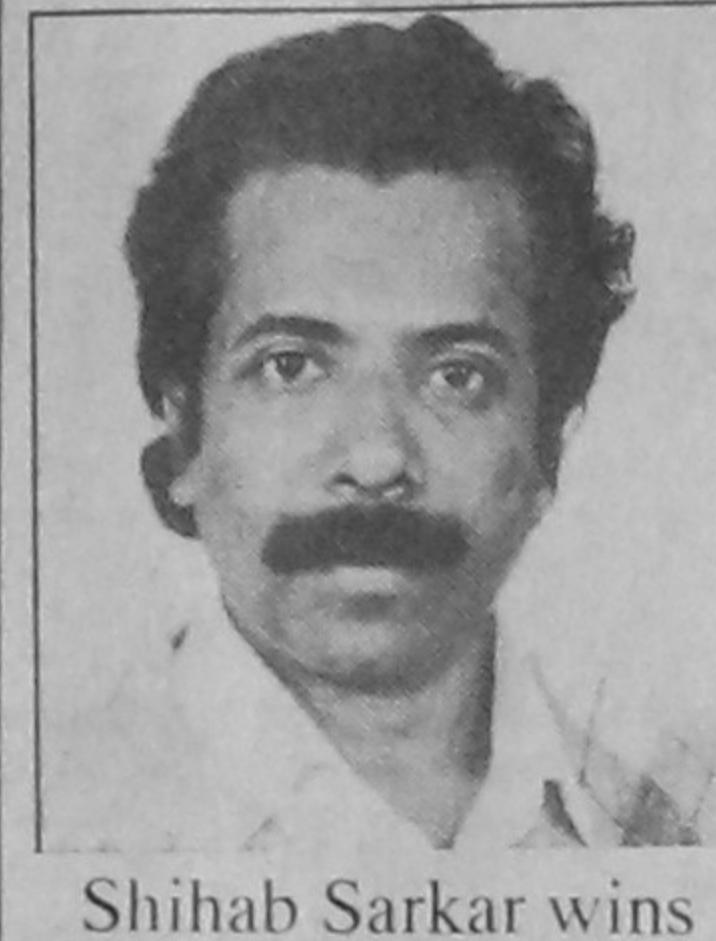
The food aid will be distributed to destitute women through the VGD (vulnerable group development) programme in Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Naogaon and Rajshahi districts.

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 Baralei 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 Anjir Liton, were also honoured with the same award.

Rokeya Qader, Chairperson of M Nurul Qader Foundation, presided over the award-giving ceremony while Dr. Antusuzaman 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.

The award 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: Nirmalendu Roy Chowdhury - treasurer; Biplob Dixit - organisational secretary; Milon Bhattacharya - cultural secretary; Uttam Shil - publicity secretary; Samar Chandra Shil - literary & publication secretary and Manik Tewari - office secretary.

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Obituary

Malfuzat Banu, General Manager of Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation died at the Jaslik Hospital at Bombari, 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.

Malfuzat was buried at Utara graveyard yesterday after her *namaj-e-janaza*.

Death anniversary

The 29th death anniversary of Shahid 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, *Qurankhwanai* and a *milad mahfil* will be held at his residence and at his son's business organisation at 204/A Tejgaon Industrial Area.

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* (island) areas. Many new post offices are being opened and old ones renovated every year, he added.

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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 Bangladeshi government has enhanced budgetary allocation in health sector by increasing the amount to Tk 6000 or this year from Tk 5100 cr 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 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.

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