

Dhaka Day by Day

Sokhina's Pithaghar

Sabah Chowdhury

This winter's footpath near New Market has an odd sight to offer. A young woman sits tending a makeshift fire and, cooking 'bhapa pitha' (traditional winter cakes) at the price of taka one for one. A rate, at which even the rag pickers can taste a few, standing near her shop blocking the hurrying pedestrians.

Sokhina, who is decidedly one of the few women street vendors of Dhaka, came to Dhaka hoping that the city would provide what the village could not: a decent life. Like thousands before her she has been disappointed. To this has been added a husband who would live off his wife's sweat. Once in a while he pulls rickshaws, rarely a regular job which is given up with equal regularity. Sixteen years of marriage has convinced her that things won't change. And that understanding has driven her to the streets.

Her movable and do-it-yourself kitchen occupies little space, built by twisting a piece of cardboard around the ancient body of a derelict kerosene tin. There is a kind of shelf attached to it next to the fire, which keeps her sort of life going.

But the cakes are real, like the proverbial hot ones. And they sell well too. Sokhina sells about 50 to 100 of pithas a day, mostly to rick-

shaw pullers. But for Sokhina the Bangla winter is cruelly short. Because when winter hangs its second hand coat and the weather is full of heat and rain, she too has to pack her kitchen, dump it somewhere and go inside houses to work as maid or sit under a torn umbrella and in the scorching heat, break bricks. "Just anything that will keep my family of six going. I don't know any dalal" (middleman) who will get me a job in a garment factory." In this city where even the poor need connections to survive, she is disastrously alone. A little more money throughout the year would have made her life a "little more" comfortable.

A little more is important when for one leaky run down shanty room in the Babupara slum she has to pay Taka 400. Its only after paying for that, that she can start to think of buying food. Still its home to her.

But that a different one surely from the one which she has left behind perhaps forever. Sokhina like most village girls used to dream that when she grew up she would cook winter cakes over a stove and celebrate everyday life with her family and neighbours. She does fry cakes today, but on the footpath and for strangers at price. Dreams have a strange way of coming true.



A happy Sokhina bakes pitha for a waiting customer (not seen in the picture)

Education Adviser regrets

Curriculum Committee proposals ignored

Presidential Adviser for Education Prof. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui on Thursday called on the educated people to create consciousness about science education for overall development of the country, reports UNB.

"Create consciousness and help the next democratic government to take adequate steps for the spread of science education," the Adviser told a seminar here today.

Inaugurating the seminar on "physics education in schools, colleges and universities," Prof Siddiqui painted a gloomy picture of science education particularly at school level.

"Our text books do not have the latest development in science while many schools are still lacking laboratories and science teachers," he said. Bangladesh Physical Society (BPS) organised the day-long seminar on the occasion of its biennial meeting at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

BPS President Dr. M. A. Mannan chaired the inaugural function which was also addressed by Acting Vice Chancellor of the BUET Dr. Azizul Haq and BPS General Secretary Dr. M.A. Asgar.

Prof Siddiqui, who had headed a National Curriculum Committee, said it had recommended a package of measures for the overall development of education in the country. But, he regretted that those were yet to be implemented.

He hoped that the next democratic government will take effective steps in this regard.

Dr. M.A. Mannan emphasised on scientific research related to the short and long-term problems of the country to accelerate the pace of development.

Besides resource constraints, he identified hindrances in application of

science as lack of manpower for research, problems of science education, absence of coordination among the academic institutions, research organisations, and industrial and economic sectors.

He said the science organisations have a role to play in solving these problems. But, he pointed out that the problems cannot be solved under the present administrative system.

New student body floated

A New student organisation "Bangladesh Chhatra Mukti" was floated on Thursday with a pledge to establish a democratic society and science-oriented education system in the country, reports UNB.

A 31-member convening committee of the organisation was announced with Mosharraf Hossain as the convener at a press conference at DUCSU Dhaban.

The organisation was formed after forging unity of Chhatra League (Reza-Mosharra) and Chhatra League (Samsu-Selim) which were dissolved earlier.

Addressing the press conference, leaders of the new student front expressed wholehearted support to the Janata Mukti Party's ideals and political activities.

In a written statement

Mosharraf said his organisation will fight for education for all, a democratic system, and also fight against the communalism, imperialism, autocracy and military rule.

The news conference over, they placed floral wreath at the Shaheed Minar and brought out an anti-war procession in the city.

One killed in clash

Our DMCH Correspondent: A middle-aged farmer was killed and his son seriously injured in a clash over the possession of a land at Tanpur village under Gazipur district on Wednesday.

Md. Sadeq, 50, and his son Kabir, 16, was working in their field when Sadeq's brother Rashid Master accompanied by some other persons allegedly, attacked them with knife, dao, lathi, sarki.

Resist poll candidates with black money: ML

Muslim League leaders on Thursday called for resisting the forces which, they said, were out to control the coming election by using illegal arms and black money, reports UNB.

In a statement, Kazi Abdul Kader and Jamir Ali, President and General Secretary respectively of Muslim League (Kader) said all political parties should abide by a code of conduct for a free and fair polls.

Otherwise, they said, the coming parliamentary election will not be meaningful.

The leaders said the people were barred from exercising their voting rights in different past elections through the use of muscle power.

They also expressed their party's willingness to cooperate with the interim government in handing over power to the people's representatives.

PROGRAMME

Our Staff Correspondent says: A seminar on 'international literacy decade' and 'education to all in Bangladesh' will be held tomorrow (Saturday) at 11.30 am at Teachers Training College auditorium.

Organised by Bangladesh Shakhara Samity the seminar will be presided over by former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Shamsul Haq Justice (Retd.) Badrul Kaiser Chowdhury and Advocate Shamsul Haq Chowdhury will attend the seminar as chief guest and special guest respectively.

NOAMI meet

The 5th annual general meeting of the National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI) will be held in Dhaka January 26, reports BSS.

Mr. Golam Mohiuddin, Secretary NOAMI has requested all members to attend the AGM to be held at 4 p.m. at the auditorium of the Bangladesh National Federation of the Deaf, 62, Bijoynagar.

Gregorian Assoc

The annual general meeting (AGM) of the Gregorian Association will be held today (Friday) at the school premises at 3.00 p.m., says a Press release.

The AGM will be followed by a cultural function and dinner.

Grn. Shamsul Azam, President of the Association have requested all concerned to attend the meeting.

Reception to Niaz

The annual meet of Mirsarai Upazila Association will be held tomorrow Saturday at 4 p.m. at the auditorium of Jatitya Press Club, Dhaka.

The Upazila's glorious sons including the international Grand Master Niaz Murshed will be accorded a reception in the meeting.

Mustafa Mahmud will preside.

SIPHA meet

The special general meeting of Smoking and Intoxicant Preventive Human Service Association (SIPHA), will be held today (Friday), 10 a.m. at Malibag Biponi Bitan (1st floor) in the city.

Chairman Soleman Ahmed Kamal has requested all members to attend the meeting.

City electioneering scene

Rival posters co-exist peacefully to woo voters

By Staff Correspondent

After final withdrawal of the nominations, party candidates have launched fresh campaigns in city and suburbs and elsewhere in the country. But it is yet to gain momentum due to Qulfwar.

Countdown for the parliamentary elections is only 32 days ahead.

Party activists have in the meantime finished writings on the walls. Vantage points of the city have been occupied for housing makeshift stalls which have been tastefully decorated.

Banners, festoons and party symbols have been hung around these stalls. Many stalls have been illuminated. Party activists are playing tape-recorded speeches of the late and present political leaders

and music. Supporters of the political parties are thronging to the stalls and taking part in electioneering spontaneously.

Footpath vendors are having a brisk business with coats and symbols of late and present leaders. Large portraits of late President Zia, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Khaleda and Sheikh Hasina are also selling briskly.

Walls posters are talking about the party stand on the burning issues confronting the nation and the manifesto. A close look at these writings is certain to give an onlooker fresh ideas about the pledges of the parties and the 'olive branch' they are going to offer to the countrymen.

BNP posters are advocating for market-oriented economy and green revolution through canal-digging. One poster says, 'each and every inch of land will be used.' Stressing on Bangladeshi nationalism, a BNP poster said, 'We have friends abroad, but not masters.' Another poster stresses saving country's villages which would, inter alia, save the nation.

Meanwhile, Awami League posters are propagating for the establishment of Bengali nationalism and parliamentary system of government on the basis of 1972 constitution. Another AL poster says, 'We don't want politics originating from Cantonment. We want people's politics.' Stressing on secularism, some posters have

sentimental appeals to the countrymen quoting Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his killing.

Parties comprising the 8-Party Alliance, and referring to 5-Party Alliance are appealing for the establishment of universal and mass-oriented education, allowance to the unemployed and fulfillment of vacant Government posts.

Awami League and the Left Alliances have identical slogans on the question of establishing secularism and Bengali nationalism.

Jamaat wall posters are advocating for the Islamic social order and a constitution based on the holy Quran. Another poster suggest country's administrative system will be streamlined on the basis of Prophet Muhammad's guidance.

Meantime, a congenial atmosphere for holding free and fair election is gradually taking shape. Nearly 30 per cent of the candidates who had submitted nominations withdrew from the race. Political analysts say this is a happy sign as because so many candidates have withdrawn in favour of the Alliances or other candidates.



An escape after ticketless train travel - Ticketless travel in the country's trains has reportedly gone up due to laxity in the Railway Department. The offenders appear to be more cunning than the investigators as they have successfully managed to make a big hole in the wall aimed at blocking their safe passage. As a result, hundreds daily ride the trains free, with the Railway Department already in the red. The Railways must now pause and ponder over how many holes have really crept in the department before it is too late

Plea to cancel Senior Service Pool

The Bangladesh Civil Service (Secretariat) Cadre Association submitted a memorandum to the Acting President suggesting measures to make the administration people and development oriented, reports UNB.

The eight-point suggestions include: cancellation of Matin Committee report on civil service, cancellation of Senior Services Pool, merger of Secretariat and Administrative cadre and continuation of age-limit of retirement at 57.

The association also discussed about these suggestions with the Establishment Secretary early this week where it's leaders demanded withdrawal of members of other cadres from base posts in the secretariat.

Rule issued on EC Nomination paper cancellation challenged

Supreme Court Correspondent

A division bench of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, High Court Division comprising Mr. Justice Fazle Hossain and Mr. Justice Habibur Rahman and Mr. Justice Abdul Hasib issued a rule nisi on January 23 on the Election Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner and Returning Officer, Satkhira to show cause why the impugned order dated 17.1.91 (Annexure-C) passed by the Chief Election Commissioner and the order dated 14.1.91 (Annexure-B) passed by the Deputy Commissioner and Returning Officer, Satkhira shall not be declared to have

been passed without any lawful authority and to be of no legal effect and why the petitioner's nomination paper seeking election to the parliament not be declared valid or such other or further order or orders passed as to this court may seem fit and proper.

In the meantime, the Returning Officer, Satkhira (Respondent No.2) is directed to accept the nomination paper of the petitioner and allow him to contest the ensuing parliamentary election in Constituency No. 107 Satkhira-3 by complying with all other necessary formalities

subject to the result of this rule.

The rule was made returnable within January 29, 1991. The case will come up in the list on January 30, 1991 for hearing.

The fact in short is that Mr. M. A. Halim, a candidate from constituency no. 107, Satkhira-3 filed nomination paper before the Returning Officer, Satkhira for seeking election to Parliament from the constituency. The Returning Officer on 14.1.1991 cancelled his nomination paper holding that Mr. M. A. Halim was a government servant which was subsequently affirmed by the Election Commission on an Appeal preferred by Mr. M. A. Halim. Against that order, he obtained rule.

Kazi A. T. Manowaruddin moved the petition.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

1	Spar	36	Server
2	Footlike part	37	Silkworm
3	Jog	38	Note of scale
4	Year	39	Semi-precious stone
5	Large bird	40	Parent
6	Unusual	41	Sleeping quarters
7	Flower	42	Anger
8	Viper	43	Ripped
9	Eye amorously	44	Former Reds coach
10	Pertaining to the mind	45	"Days of - Lives"
11	Phoebes; flycatchers	46	Lamb's pen name
12	Latin conjunction	47	Winner vehicle
13	Wild plum	48	Born
14	Without address	49	TV's Mike Brady
15	Fuss	50	measure
16	Sharpens	51	Leg part
17	Suitable	52	Tried
18	Tooth doctors	53	Garden tool
19		54	9 Plant
20		55	Toll
21		56	River in Germany
22		57	Nerve bearing
23		58	Trevino's needs
24		59	21st Vest ages
25		60	Christmas visitor
26		61	Evil
27		62	Poem - sequitur
28		63	Place: situation
29		64	Corn plant part
30		65	Health resort
31		66	Pippen
32		67	Lease
33		68	Cared for
34		69	Shred
35		70	Behold!
36		71	Openings
37		72	40 Son of Adam
38		73	network
39		74	42 Simple
40		75	43 Pit
41		76	44 One of HOMES
42		77	45 Peruse
43		78	48 Regret

Weather

Biting chill in Srimangal Temperature rising all over country

By Staff Correspondent

Met Office on Thursday fore cast gradual rise in temperature all over the country during the next 48 hours.

Lowest temperature recorded at Dhaka on Thursday was 13.7 degree Celsius while the country's lowest minimum temperature was recorded at Srimangal at 6.9 degree.

The westerly low lay over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and the neighbourhood. A feeble low

lay over Gangetic West Bengal. Seasonal low lay over South Bay.

Dry weather is likely to continue over the country and thick fog may occur at places over the river basins.

The sun sets today (Friday) at Dhaka at 5.40 pm and sun rises tomorrow at 6.42 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in major cities and towns of Bangladesh on Thursday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9:00 am	6:00 pm
Dhaka	24.4	13.7	77	53
Chittagong	26.0	12.2	70	67
Khulna	25.0	17.7	85	73
Rajshahi	25.0	8.8	83	68
Rangpur	22.2	9.5	93	63
Dinajpur	22.7	8.7	83	63
Jessore	25.7	13.0	-	58
Barisal	25.6	11.8	85	80
Mymensingh	24.5	8.0	80	81
Sylhet	24.6	10.2	73	48

Asad's plaque at Medical College

A memorial plaque in honour of shaheed Asaduzzaman, who embraced martyrdom in the Mass Uprising of 1969, was unveiled in the city Thursday evening at the road side near the emergency ward of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, reports BSS.

The memorial plaque, erected by the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) and Shaheed Asad Parishad, was opened by Presidential Adviser for Food and Culture, Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed.

Speaking briefly on the occasion, Prof. Iajuddin thanked the DUCSU and the Shaheed Asad Parishad for their initiative to construct the plaque.

Deployment of Israeli planes in Turkey denied

The spokesman of the Turkish Foreign Ministry has categorically denied and described as completely baseless, the news originating from a news agency stating that unspecified number of Israeli war planes were deployed at the southern Turkish air base of Incirlik, says a press release issued by the Embassy of Turkey in Dhaka on Wednesday.



Countless small processions against war in the Gulf region and wishing victory to President Saddam Hussein continued in Dhaka city on Thursday, as elsewhere on the day. School girls held a rally in the city with banners calling for peace.

1,100 gram heroin in city seized

Eleven hundred grams of high-quality heroin was recovered and two persons including an Urdu-speaking were arrested from Zindabhar lane area of city Thursday, reports BSS.

On receipt of an information from the Intelligence Branch of the Narcotics Control Directorate, a squad from the Dhaka Metropolitan Sub-Region conducted a raid and arrested a Bangladesh named Iqbal and Nowsher who is an Urdu-speaking from Zindabhar. The squad recovered the illegal brown-coloured heroin from their possession.

The arrested persons are suspected to be the members of an international heroin smuggling gang. Under laws of land a person is liable to a maximum punishment of death for possessing over 25 grammes of heroin.

Jubo Kalyan Kendra dissolved

The government has dissolved the 'Jatitya Jubo Kalyan Kendra' under the Ministry of Youth and Sports, an official notification said, reports BSS.