

Metropolitan

# Dhaka Day by Day Of Romance and Culture

by Fayza Haq

There was a feast of songs and fashion parades at the National Museum Auditorium last Sunday. This "International Night" had been organised by the Gulshan Ladies' Club.

One of the stunning performances was the Ram Sri dance by Oresa Ali of Thailand. Dressed in pink and turquoise and worked out the steps of this wedding dance with grace and expertise. The next item was the "Ka tip" dance and it brought in the traditional celebrations from North East Thailand. "Ka tip"



Thai artiste

means things that hang around the waist of dancers. The girls wore pink jackets and embroidered skirts while the men were dressed in black and sported red head bands. Shrivakorn and Aneke Pata lead this dance.

The "Samballo" dance from the Philippines had a hat of palm leaves as the central figure for courtship. The hat to a man means prestige, status and even suggests a bit of romance. The lady with her flirtitious moves, using the hat, tempted the man to beg for her

love. The "Samballo" dance, performed by Glorietta and Andy went back to the Spanish days in the Philippines.

The uninhibited joys of feasting and courtship was again brought into the bamboo dance of the "Tinkling." The dance imitated the movements of the crane as it walked with hopping steps to avoid being hit by thorns. This dance by Cathy and Edwin involved tremendous caution and skill, as a single mistake could have led to being hit by the bamboo.

Equally quaint and absorbing was the traditional "Pendet" dance from Bali. With flowers in the hair, wearing exotic green and red batiks, and carrying baskets of flowers to welcome visitors, Sally Aziz and Putri Oding did well to represent the striking Culture of Indonesia.

This was followed by the "Yapong" dance from Jakarta. This went back to the pre-independence period of the country. Expression of joy was once again the purpose of this traditional dance performed by Indah Ischak, Rheyri Ruwito and Ega Oding.

From India came a 300 year old dance from Orissa. Wearing a saffron yellow and red sari, with jewellery and flowers for the hair, the dancer won the hearts of the people. This classical piece was the most serious event of the evening.

A delightful fashion parade of saris followed this dance. This display included saris of different weaves, textures, designs and colours from places like West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Hyderabad, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. Wedding saris with brocade "Kanjibarang" were also styled. "Lehangas" made from saris were sported too. The ladies who modelled the saris walked with dignity and poise.

A tiny girl, Froza from Tashkent, charmed the audience with her exquisite dance with the "dupatta". This was typical folk dance and represented the culture and heritage of the Muslim part of USSR.

Taiwan brought in fresh dances, and fashion show with both traditional and western type clothes. Conventional love songs from the People's Republic of China also delighted the listeners.

The last item for the evening was from Bangladesh. This short drama depicting "Moira's wedding" was by Jhankar Lalitkala Academy. This dance brought in the harvesting season. Villagers were shown as bringing boat loads of crops while their wives rejoiced. This was deftly combined with the marriage scene with its inevitable laughter and tears.

With the dearth of entertainment in the city, it was a pleasure to watch the ladies perform. They brought the culture from their lands and presented it to our people with elegance and suavity.

## PROGRAMME Closing ceremony of short film

The closing ceremony of the Gold Leaf '2nd International Short Film Festival, Dhaka '90' will be held on today (Wednesday) at 6.30 pm at the Central Public Library Auditorium, says a press release.

Veteran film-maker, Mr. A.H. Salahuddin will be the chief guest at the closing ceremony.

## Seminar on poverty

A seminar on "Poverty and Environment: Global Links and Economic/Debt Issues" will be held at Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies on Thursday at 4 pm, says a press release.

The paper will be presented by Ben Jackson, author of "Poverty and the Planet: A Question of Survival" and a researcher on environment and development in the Third world countries.

## Friendship assoc meets

The special general meeting of Bangladesh-America Friendship Social Welfare Association (BAFSA) will be held today (Wednesday) at 76, Segun Bagicha (1st floor) at 4 pm, says a press release.

## 'Bring back troops from Saudi Arabia'

The Five-Party Alliance Tuesday demanded withdrawal of Bangladesh troops from Saudi Arabia, saying the decision to dispatch the contingent was fraught with lack of wisdom, reports BSS.

Speakers at a rally held by the alliance in front of the National Press Club condemned the US-led attack on Iraq and said hostilities must be brought to an end through peaceful means.

The annexation of Kuwait by sheer force could not be approved but heavy deployment of foreign forces in the region on that pretext created a dangerous situation for the entire world, the speakers observed.

They said the Five-Party Alliance had opposed the despatch of the Bangladesh troops because it was incompatible with country's position in the global affairs and would also serve no good for the nation.

Alliance Convener and BSD chief Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan presided over the rally which was addressed, among others, by alliance leaders Rashed Khan Menon and A. F. M. Mahbulul Haq.

The rally later turned into a procession and held a brief demonstration before the foreign ministry demanding the pulling out of Bangladesh troops from Saudi Arabia.

Speaking at the gate of the ministry, Mr. Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan said people of this country wanted their troops back to home.

More than 2,200 soldiers have been sent to the kingdom as part of multi-national forces

# They come to 4 'cities of joy' to land up in infernos

by A Special Correspondent

The Manila-based Asian Development Bank will raise its assistance for upliftment of the urban poor. This was stated by an ADB spokesman in the Filipino capital yesterday.

The decision was taken in view of the fact that the number of urban poor families in Asia and the Pacific will reach 38 million by the year 2000. It is almost certain that Bangladesh's destitute urban population will greatly be benefitted by the ADB decision, which is crucial because of swelling number of urban poor households.

In fact, home to the ever-increasing people migrating from villages, slums in four metropolitan cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi are not just the blightest areas lacking adequate plumbing, running water and heating facilities. People in these four key cities of Bangladesh are not homeless by choice but only destined to be so.

In Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi metropolitan cities, slums are the

end-result of a continuous process of rural landlessness and pauperisation, rural-to-urban migration, natural calamities, political upheavals and explosion of population coupled with the implosion of urban population, said Faridul Alam, an expert.

The landless and unemployed people migrate to their families to the urban areas of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi to escape the vicious circle of poverty. They come to the 'cities of joy' with great expectations only to

land up in infernos. The shanties, bastees or slums they start living in are literally past praying for. The shanties live packed like sardines in structures no bigger than graves with filth, dirt, refuse and raw sewage all around at times. Slums are not the cause but the effect of social malady, said Alam.

Varindra Tarzie Vittachi, presently Programme Director, Pate Institute for Human Survival in West Redding, Connecticut recently gave a very sharp picture of the Third

World slums including the four metropolitan cities of Bangladesh. He said: "A woman squats beside a fetid pool of water, choked with the human effluence of the slums around it, washing a pile of rags. A group of children, truant from school, scamper through garbage like sewer rats, screaming joyously despite the slim pickings on which they exist. Beyond the pool are their makeshift homes of mud and coconut thatch and lean-tos put together out of cardboard cartons and scrap metal. The pool is the only source of water for these people. It is a reality that festers but is there a way out?"

## 1,500 slums in Dhaka

In Dhaka city alone, there are a little over one thousand and a half slums with a total population of over two millions. The area covered by these slums is nearly 2,350 acres comprising approximately 80,000 structures or makeshift homes.

If the present growth rate persists, the population of Dhaka city slums and squatters will exceed five million by the year 2000. Strangely again, that will constitute over half of the total population of Dhaka at that time, according to a projection.

The urban growth rate in Bangladesh is among the highest in the world. It is seven per cent per year, three times the overall population growth rate. Metropolitan cities in this country have a higher growth rate (about nine per cent). The average annual urban growth rates in, however, is 4.5 per cent.

## 40m urbanites by the year 2000

By the year 2000, the total population in the urban areas of Bangladesh is likely to be nearly 40 million. Worse, most of these people will find it unaffordable to live anywhere except in the slums.

According to surveys conducted by the centre for urban studies of Dhaka University, Bangladesh Statistical Bureau and another foreign organisation, a little under half of Dhaka live in object poverty and most of them live in slums. These people spend over 80 per cent of their income to meet the minimum nutritional needs.

The ADB assistance for the urban poor in Asia and the Pacific will definitely help the unfortunate millions in Bangladesh. The future Parliamentary government in the country is expected to take up the issue and stem the rot before it is too late.

## Pro-democracy 'tokais' homeless



NOT EVEN A ROOM FOR THEM IN SLUMS --- The two street children, seen sleeping in the concrete breakers in city, were the ones who added militancy to the recent pro-democracy movements in Bangladesh. They helped the country's political activists observe hartals and they were the first ones to taste the jaws of death, when fired upon by the police. But then, will they be provided with a shelter to live in when the politicians form the Government after the February 27 polls? Their dreams of a rosy future were dashed to the ground time and again as they were just ignored by the men in power in the past like street children in the backyard. The two urchins, after their day-long chores to earn a living, have none to look after them at night: Will their dreams be materialised or these will remain as mere day-dreams after the February 27? Only time can tell.

## Correction

The Daily Star of yesterday carried two different stories on the decision by the All Party Students' Unity (APSU) on its plan to stage a procession to demand the transfer of the former president Ershad and Begum Roushan Ershad from the Gulshan Villa to the Central Jail.

The procession will be staged on February 10, and not on Feb 2, as inadvertently reported on Page One (but correctly reported on Page 3). The demonstration planned for Feb 2 will be to demand bringing back Bangladeshis troops from the Saudi Arabia. The mistakes are regretted.

## Reinstatement of 50 engineers demanded

By DU Correspondent

Shaheedullah Hall Students Union in a statement on Tuesday demanded immediate reinstatement of the 50 Assistant Deputy Engineers, sacked during the autocratic regime.

The leaders of the Students Union expressed grave concern over the hunger strike, the engineers started on January 27 in front of the National Press Club and expressed solidarity with their demands.

## Tagore song festival begins today

By Staff Correspondent

A three-day National Tagore Song Festival begins at Shilpakala Academy Auditorium today (Wednesday).

Veteran Tagore Singer Abdul Ahad will inaugurate the festival.

Literateur Shawkat Osman, Presidential Adviser for Education Zillur Rahman Siddiqi and Cultural Adviser Yezuddin Ahmed will be the chief guest in the three days programme at Shilpakala Academy and Central Shaheed Minar premises.

This is the 3rd Tagore song festival in the country.

## Death condoled

A condolence meeting was held in Dhaka Monday on the death of noted singer Abdul Halim Chowdhury by the Disc Shilpi Goshti at its office with artistic S M Mansur in the chair, reports BSS.

In the discussions, Mr. S M Lutfur said an irreparable loss was created in the death of Abdul Halim Chowdhury which could not be filled up.

On behalf of the Goshti a condolence message was sent to the bereaved members of the family.

## TV Wednesday

- 5-00 : Opening and recitations from the Holy Quran.
- 5-20 : Sourabhey Gourabey : Programme on the future of the youth.
- 5-45 : Sports programme.
- 6-10 : Shishur Jatno : Health care for children.
- 6-55 : News in Bengali.
- 7-05 : Natun Shilpider Ashor : Programme of young singers.
- 7-25 : Sangbad Parikrama : Current affairs.
- 8-00 : News in Bengali.
- 8-30 : Dance programme.
- 9-00 : Film serial : MacGyver.
- 10-00 : News in English.
- 10-30 : Ittyadi : Magazine programme.
- 11-30 : News.
- 11-40 : Thursday's programme summary and closing.

## Weather

# Cloudy sky likely to prevail till tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with partly cloudy sky is likely to prevail over Bangladesh till Thursday morning, Meteorological Department says.

The night temperature rose by one to two degrees Celsius at most places over on Tuesday and is likely to remain nearly unchanged.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change.

Extended outlook for another five days: Cloudy condition during the first half period.

On Tuesday, the night temperature rose by one to two degrees Celsius at most places.

## Temperature in Celsius

Cities/Towns	Maximum	Minimum	9 am	6pm
Dhaka	27.4	15.2	79	56
Chittagong	25.5	14	83	73
Rajshahi	28.8	11.2	75	56
Khulna	28.3	11.9	93	60
Comilla	28.5	13.3	85	71
Jessore	29	11.5	65	NA
Sylhet	28.6	14.7	70	57
Bogra	29.5	12.2	66	67
Dinajpur	27.4	11.5	69	60
Rangpur	27.5	11.6	70	64
Barisal	28	12	92	82

Minimum temperature recorded in major cities of the region on Tuesday were:

New Delhi	13 degrees Celsius
Karachi	19
Betjin	3
Bangkok	23 degrees Celsius
Singapore	23
Colombo	24

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Joint
- 4 Painful
- 8 Grim
- 11 Haut
- 12 Journey
- 13 Exist
- 14 Early morn
- 15 There
- 17 Steel beam
- 19 Tennis stroke
- 21 African antelope
- 23 Food fish
- 24 Goddess of discord
- 26 Opp. of NNW
- 28 Choiest
- 31 Genus of cattle
- 33 Rubber tree
- 35 Fish eggs
- 36 "Let it --"
- 38 Orator
- 41 Father
- 42 Supply with weapons

44 Everyone

45 Fall behind

47 Allowance for waste

49 High

mountain

51 Legal document

54 Once around track

56 Asian ox

58 Born

59 Oriental salute

62 Cover

64 Myself

65 Time gone by

66 Johnny of music

68 Aroma

70 Condensed moisture

71 God of love

72 2,000 lbs.

DOWN

1 Mood; wit

2 Negative prefix

3 Work at one's trade

4 Stupefies

5 Alternative word

6 Outfit

7 Heroic event

8 Climbing device

9 Anger

10 Through

11 Wan

16 King of Bashan

18 Take unwillfully

20 Baby's napkin

22 Ordinarily

25 Distress signal

27 Antlered animal

29 Soak up

30 Beverage

32 Health resort

34 Lamprey

36 Flying mammal

37 Go astray

39 Guido's high note

40 Uncooked

43 Mature, fully developed

46 Sice -- fizz

48 Chinese pagoda

50 -- of Glory

52 Citrus fruit

53 Condescending look

55 Measured step

57 Mike Tyson highlight

59 Mourning

62 Mature

61 Deface

63 Vessel

67 Therefore

69 Note of scale

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S A G P R A T E A G O  
E L L L E M O N M O W  
E T A A L O E M A T E  
D E C A Y R E  
L B M E T S O L A C E  
E E L D I R E C T I O N  
E R I S O I L S L A T  
R E M A I N D E R S S E  
S T A N D S C O W T R  
T O U T T E R  
A R E A A R I A O B I  
L A W A R G O T B A D  
E Y E T R E N E E R A

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