

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Chairman of the Committee

By S. Bari

His eyes are bright with enthusiasm, and he speaks of going to the bank to deposit one thousand Taka. He presents documents listing members and committee goals and bank balances. His office is a flat-bottomed wooden wagon with a long handle, rather like a low-lying perambulator. This is also his bed. Mohammed Nazrul Islam is paralyzed from the waist down. He begs at the entrance to the High Court grounds.

Nazrul Islam is also the Chairman of the Jatiya Pongu Shangstha, a body comprised of some eighty members, of whom 57 have money in a joint bank account totalling nearly 5000 Taka. Created five months ago, the committee is the result of Mr. Islam's conviction that "we must stick together and help each other".

her tin cup and mutters constantly about the truck accident that left her legless. She also turns over 12 Taka from her begging income.

The committee provides loans for the handicapped to set up small businesses, such as shoe-shining or paan stalls, or to buy the push-carts, which cost 700 Taka. When a member recently died, the committee contributed to his funeral expenses. Similarly, wedding costs for members' children are shared by the committee. Mr. Islam hopes to set up practical training classes in sewing, carpentry, and mechanics. Apart from financial aid, the committee offers advice on income-management and family planning.

Several social and economic factors contribute to the steady downward spiral into which



Members of the committee head for their daily round

Handicapped beggars are possibly the sorriest sight in an already heart-rending population of beggars. Passers-by squirm in the face of these limbless deformities, at the same time resenting the feelings of disgust and pity the beggars arouse. Yet many of these people once had jobs, homes, and a modicum of happiness in their lives.

An old bearded man now on the streets was once a factory employee, till an on-the-job accident severed a leg. The owners handed him 1200 Taka and showed him the door. He was fortunate enough to obtain employment as a night guard, and now scrapes up enough to send money home to the family. Paying 12 Taka per month to the committee, he receives membership benefits.

One very aged woman lying near him rattles

this community has fallen. A lack of effective compensation puts workers directly on the streets. Physical and educational drawbacks hamper their ability to find alternative employment. Even if married, the women have little security: most of them have been abandoned. Health is a constant worry, and local thugs often extort 'rent' in exchange for begging privileges.

Mr. Islam, who runs a small business of his own, said he hoped for greater co-operation from officials, particularly in job training and in meeting the special needs of female members. "I know we're not supposed to beg," he half-jokes, "but what are we to do?" He tucks his sheaf of papers into his grimy blanket and offers a tired smile.

Dhaka hails Gulf truce move

Bangladesh Wednesday welcomed peace move initiated by the two superpowers for a truce in the Gulf war, reports UNH.

The United States and the Soviet Union declared Tuesday night that a ceasefire in the Gulf would be possible if Iraq made "an unequivocal commitment to withdraw all its troops from Kuwait and took concrete steps in that direction".

The two superpowers in a joint statement also called for a "meaningful peace process" to deal with the longstanding Arab-Israeli dispute once the war was over.

"We have been supporting moves for a peaceful solution of the problem," an official of the Foreign Ministry told newsmen.

Additional Foreign Secretary Riaz Rahman also said "our objective is liberation of Kuwait and cessation of hostilities".

The US-Soviet statement was issued at the end of talks between US Secretary of State James A. Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander A. Izsmertny Tuesday evening in Washington.

About the growing resentment around the world against the US-Led multinational forces war on Iraq, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said "war should not be disproportionately spread... Actions should not go beyond the Security Council Resolutions".

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20 launches on Aricha-Daulatdia route stop plying

ARICHA, Jan 30: Twenty launches on the Aricha-Daulatdia route have stopped plying in the last two days for diesel shortage and total disruption is feared anytime, reports UNB.

Thirty-five launches ferry passenger on the two routes of river Jamuna. The rest 15 launches may also come to a halt if diesel supply is not ensured at fair price, concerned sources said.

Pantomime show

The Friends of Bangladesh, Dhaka, a non-political charitable organisation having its parent society in UK has been working for the benefit of the people in Bangladesh, a press release said.

It staged a solo Pantomime Show, recently in the city under the name 'Padatik' in aid of fund raising campaign to help the under privileged and distressed.

M A Jabbar, the President of the society, presided over the function and Azizul Haq, former Governor, Rotary International was the chief guest.

Mr. Haq in his speech praised the 'Friends of Bangladesh' for their service towards the poor masses of the country. He sought support and sympathy of the well-to-do people of the society to encourage the Friends of Bangladesh, Dhaka in achieving their objectives.

The basic aim of the society is to render selfless social and humanitarian services to the poor through self-reliance.

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Discussion meeting

A memorial meeting will be held at National Bank Centre (Jatiya Grantha Kendra) Auditorium tomorrow (Friday) at 3.30 pm to observe the 69th birth anniversary of Mr. Samsul Haq, founder general secretary of the then Awami Muslim League and one of the organisers of the historical Language Movement, says a press release.

The meeting will be presided over by Mr. Samsul Alam while Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui, Mr. Nuri, Mr. Humayun Kabir, Prof. Sardar Fazlul Karim Prof. Abdul Gafur Mr. Al Mujahidi, Mr. Mahmud Nurul Huda and Mr. M. A. Mohyamen will take part in the discussion.

OCAB meet with Shahabuddin, Hasina Feb 2, 3

By Staff Correspondent

The overseas correspondents, based in Dhaka will meet Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's Secretariat on February 2.

The President is expected to brief the members of the Overseas Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (OCAB) on important national issues.

The OCAB members will also have a briefing session with the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina at Hotel Sonargaon on February 3.

75 to be repatriated from Jordan

A group of 75 Bangladesh Nationals who crossed over to Jordan from Iraq after the outbreak of the Gulf war would be flown home on Thursday or Friday, a Foreign Office spokesman said here on Wednesday, reports BSS.

He said a chartered aeroflot aircraft would bring them back via Bombay.

The evacuees also include the remaining members of the Bangladesh embassy in Baghdad.

These Bangladeshis had been in Amman for the last several days and their scheduled repatriation through different routes had earlier bogged down because of different problems.

They were to be taken to Cairo by road and then flown to Dhaka but the plan did not finally go off.

The Geneva-based International Organisation of Migration (IOM) will bear the cost of the evacuation.

These Bangladesh nationals are scheduled to arrive sometime Thursday, but a technical problem in the aircraft could delay the arrival by a day, the spokesman said.

The spokesman released the list of 75 nationals forming this group.

The list contains the following names:

- A. H. M. Shamsul Islam, son of Abul Khairat, Md. Delwar Hussain son of Mvi Momin Uddin Akon, A. B. I. M. Md. Rejaul Karim, son of Abdul Khaleque, Md. Jashimuddin Sarker, son of Md. Ishaque Sarker, Md. Kazem Ali, son of Mr. Ahmed Ali, Md. Mujibul Haq, son of Bazlur Rahman Bhuiyan, Asia Ikya, daughter of Mofazzal Hossain, Khawaja Shafiqur Rahman, son of Khawaja Matlur Rahman, Irtiza Nasim Ali, son of M. A. Samad.
- Mrs. Fahmida Nilufar, daughter of Mustafizur Rahman, Bashra, son of Mustafizur Rahman, Wedad, son of Mustafizur Rahman, Md. Rashidur Rahman, son of Md. Motiur Rahman, Kaniz Sultana, Rahman, wife of Md. Rashidur Rahman, Rini Rashid, daughter of Md. Rashidur Rahman, Peter Rodrick, son of Mr. Gosepi

Rodrick, Md. Tofazzal Hossain, son of Suzayet Illah Mia, Mr. George D Silva, son of M. B. D. Silva, M. A. Kaser A. Ali, son of Haji Ahmed Ali.

Md. Momtazul Haq, son of Md. Anwarul Haq, Danuel Gomes, son of John Gomes, Mr. Scrito Cruze, son of Janoke Cruze, Md. Masudur Rahman, son of Dr. Md. Mazibur Rahman, Ifekhar Alam, son of Dr. Zahidul Alam, Salmullah, son of Dakhal Mia, A. Mannan, son of A. Zabbar, Rejaul Karim son of Abu Siddique, Amr Ali, son of Mstair Ali, Md. Delwar, son of Md. Yakub Ali, Abul

Kilam Azad, son of Shafizuddin Sharif, Tamisus Rozario, son of Dal Rozario, Khabir Uddin Ahmed, son of Dr. Mohd Mia.

Khondoker Rafiqul Islam, son of Khandker Mozammel Haq, Salam, son of Abdu Maick, Ghoshuddin, son of Goni Mia, Zaharrir Alam, son of Dr. Shajauddin, Abdus Samad, son of Ahsan Ullah, Md. Faran Vila, son of A. Salam Matobbar, Jinal Abedin Mia, son of Baga Mia, Abdul Malek, son of Anwar Ali, Suruj Mia, son of Nam Ali, Osman, son of Zahed Ali Bepari, Babul Mia, son of Nuruzzaman, Md. Yasin, son of

Abdul Zajjar, Md. Hadeis Mia, son of Md. Inu Mia, Amirul Ahsan, son of Abdul Haq Mirhaha.

Md. Abul Asher, son of Jalilur Rahman, Md. Jaharir Alam, son of Md Salam Mustafa. Mostafa, son of Ghukra Sarker, Md. Shantim Sarker, son of Islam Sarker, Md. Osman Ghant, son of Karim Newaz Bhuiyan, Md. Anmullah, son of A. B. K. Syed, Anowar Baast Straji, son of Nurul Islam, Md. Liakat Ali, son of Md. Layebullah, Morxial, Md. Yusi Mia, son of Md. Valub Mia, Md. Abdur Rahman, son of Moyezuddin, Motiur Rahman, son of Kudrat Ali, Shahjalal, son of Nuruzzaman, Abu Nasir, son of Abdul Malek.

Din Mohammad, son of Colam Mostafa, Mafful, son of Samad Sarker, Sunil Chandra Shil, son of Indra Mohan Shil, Saifiq Mia, son of Masim Mia, Abdul Hamid, son of Amir Ali, Shamsun Nahar, daughter of Md. Mati Mia, Md. Harichul Haque, son of Junis Ujeen, Md. Rowson Ali, son of Miah Bokah, Abdul Hamid, son of Abdur Rahim, Md. Kamrul Ahsan, son of Mr. Saifuddin, Qazi Shah Alam Hafiz and Sadeq Khan, son of Abdul Jabbar Khan.



KILLER TRUCK SPARES NONE — A housewife near Balda Garden in city was seriously injured when a truck went berserk and rammed a confectionary shop on Wednesday. The Star Photo shows how unsafe the people are even after tightening of traffic rules on the city roads.

Dhaka to get Tk 350 cr UK grant

Bangladesh is to receive 50 million pounds equivalent to Taka 350 crore as project grant from the British Government under an agreement signed in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The visiting Under Secretary for British Overseas Development Administration, Mr. Richard Manning, and the Joint Secretary of the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Md. Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

During the annual bilateral economic cooperation meeting, the British Government also announced its intention to provide Bangladesh 15 million pounds equivalent to Taka 105 crore approximately in the form of commodity grant.

The main on-going projects under British project grant are Greater Dhaka Power Distribution Phase III, Second Gas Development Project, Tea Rehabilitation Project, Deep Tubewells Project, ZPI and Rural Development Project II.

The British delegation indicated that their government would give more preference in future to the social sector including education, health and poverty alleviation.

Since liberation, the British government has provided 307 million pounds equivalent to Taka 2150 crore as project grant and 193 million pounds equivalent to Taka 1351 crore as commodity grant of Bangladesh. The British government also provides technical assistance and other form of assistance on a regular basis.

Body to probe cause of hunger strike by WDB engineers

Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control has directed Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) to constitute a 3 member committee to enquire the cause of hunger strike by some former work-charged sub-assistant engineers of the board, a press release of the board said Wednesday, reports BSS.

The sub-assistants engineers are fasting in front of the National Press Club for the last few days.

Weather

Temperature rises

By Staff Correspondent

The night temperature on Wednesday was above normal by two to six degrees Celsius over Bangladesh except Mymensingh, Tangail, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Rangpur, Bogra, Rajshahi, Satkhira, Barisal and Bhola.

The country's highest temperature at Satkhira was 29.4 degrees Celsius and minimum of lowest 10.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Srimangal. Dry weather will prevail over the country for the 36 hours ending on Friday morning, Meteorological Department says.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: No appreciable change.

The westerly low lay over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and adjoining areas while the seasonal low lay over South Bay on Wednesday.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 5:44 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6:41 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns were:

Cities/towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.0	16.2	85	53
Chittagong	26.0	13.9	77	73
Rajshahi	28.1	12.9	77	74
Khulna	29.0	12.0	90	58
Jessore	29.3	13.0	-	63
Barisal	28.2	13.8	86	78
Dinajpur	28.0	12.7	79	65
Rangpur	27.4	12.0	78	68
Sylhet	27.6	14.9	78	56
Mymensingh	28.4	13.0	88	71

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

New Delhi 09 degrees Celsius	Hong Kong 15 degrees Celsius
Karachi 10	Bangkok 22
Beijing 04	Columbo 19

Kindergarten, rural school contradictory

Food and Culture Adviser Prof. Yazuddin Ahmed Tuesday suggested recasting of the present education system with a view to creating a congenial educational atmosphere in the campus, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a seminar on "Environmental problems in Bangladesh and education system" at the Dhaka University Teachers Students Centre (TSC) the Adviser said during the last nine years campus environment had been polluted by some students with arms.

Referring to costly kindergarten education system in the

cities and shanty houses for rural schools Prof. Yazuddin said these two mutually contradictory systems could not continue in the country. He said the same standard of education should be implemented in both rural and urban areas and for both the rich and the poor.

Organised by Bangladesh Zoological Society the inaugural session was also addressed by the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. M. Maniruzzaman Mia, convener of the Seminar Organising Committee Prof. M. Shahadat

Thursday

- 5-00 Opening and recitations from Holy Quran.
- 5-20 News in Bengali.
- 5-30 Khelar Jagat : Sports programme.
- 5-55 Cartoon Film : Pound Rupples.
- 7-20 Jiboner Alo : Islam in day to day life.
- 8-00 News in Bengali.
- 8-40 This week's drama : 'Tin Bone', written by Farhad Mahmud and produced by Faridur Rahman.
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Mini film series 'Spearfields' Daughter'.
- 11-30 News in Bengali.
- 11-40 Closing.



Madhu Jayanti celebrated

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting at National Press Club on Wednesday called upon the Government to preserve and promote works of poet Michael Madhusudan Dutt and said the past governments had ignored the great poet.

The meeting was presided over by the President of Renaissance Sangskritik Parishad Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui and addressed among others by Dr. Abul Kalam Manzur Morshed, Azad Jessori, Mujibur Rahman Kahan and Dr. Satya Batisiri of the Jadavpur University of India.

Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui regretted that cultural organisations too were in the past lukewarm towards observance of the Madhu Jayanti in the country.

Dilwar Hassan, Masim Ahmed and Shailla Ahmed recited poems of the poet. The musical soiree was participated by Tania Ila, Jesmin Sultana, Sharmin Razzak Tamni and Khokan Ahmed and conducted by Muktafira and Seuil.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Hurred
- 5 Food fish
- 9 Devoured
- 12 Danish island
- 13 Domesticated
- 14 Decay
- 15 Negative prefix
- 16 English streetcar
- 18 Neither
- 20 Note of scale
- 22 Joints
- 24 Instrument for silent
- 27 Saucy
- 29 Secluded valley
- 31 Indian weight
- 32 Sharp and harsh
- 34 Regrets
- 36 Math term
- 37 Flight of

DOWN

- 1 Capuchin monkey
- 2 Extreme degree of excellence
- 3 Teutonic deity
- 4 Speck
- 5 Sedate
- 6 Clothes basket
- 7 Early morn
- 8 Lair
- 9 Tapestry
- 10 As far as
- 11 Latin conjunction
- 17 Rhodium symbol
- 19 "God"
- 21 Region
- 23 Calumniate
- 25 Portrays; depicts
- 26 Clergyman
- 27 Adhesive substances
- 28 Journey
- 29 Rita and Michele
- 33 Edge
- 35 Cooking instruction
- 38 Projecting tooth
- 40 Mental image
- 43 Earthquake
- 46 Surfeited
- 48 Strict
- 51 Hebrew letter
- 53 Compass point
- 56 Dwelling; abbr.
- 58 Spigot
- 60 Employ
- 61 Alternative word
- 62 Fulfill
- 64 Faroe Islands
- 65 whirlwind
- 66 Negative

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating the starting positions for the words listed in the adjacent text. The grid consists of a 10x10 grid of squares, with some squares shaded black to indicate non-letter positions. Numbers 1 through 66 are placed in the starting squares of the words.