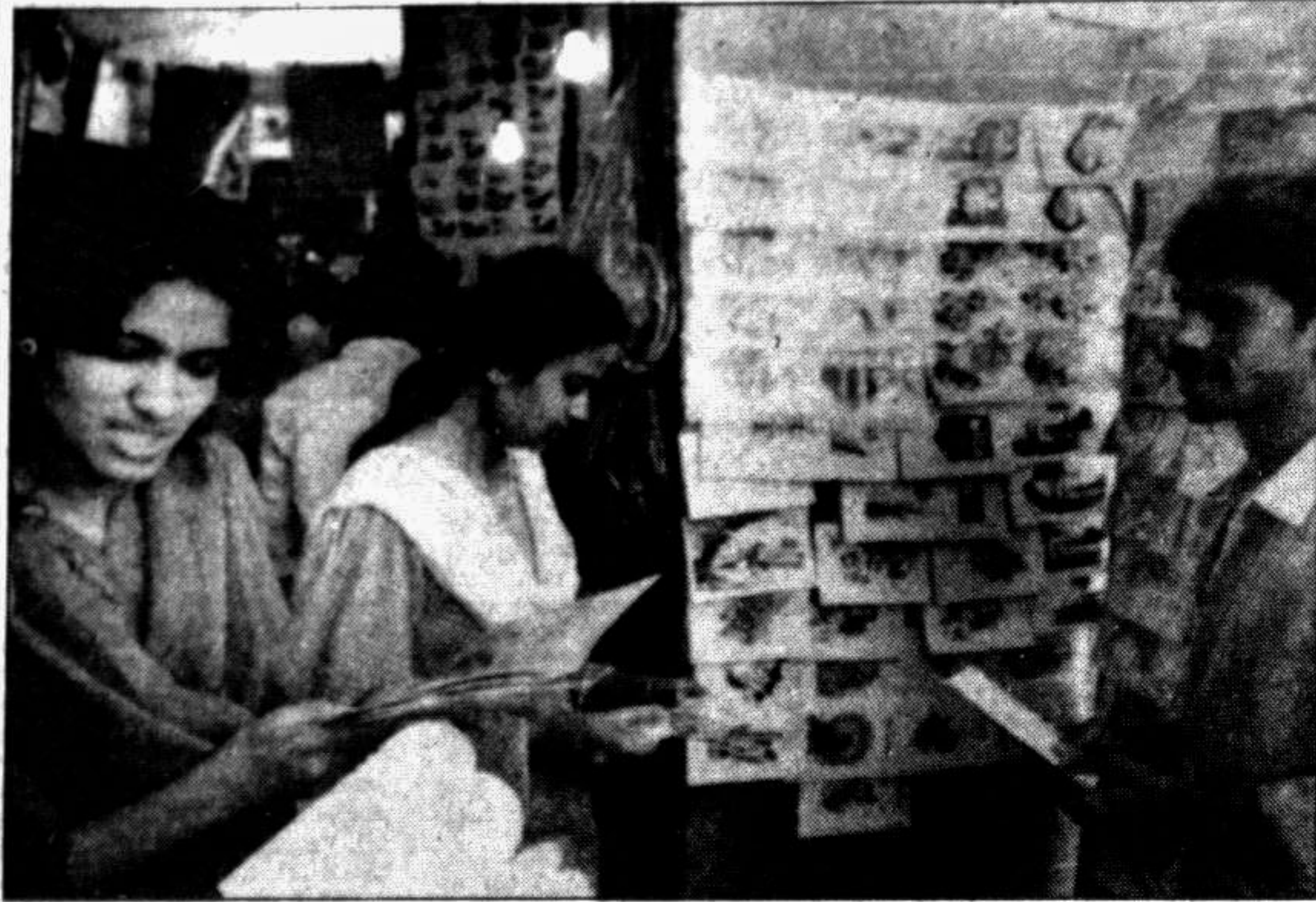


Dhaka Day by Day

From the Bottom of My Heart

by Fayza Haq



Eid cards: Take Your Pick. — Star photo

A decade back a colleague of mine talked of how he spent Tk. 300 on cards each Eid. I found the amount staggering at that time but today spending Tk 200 during every Eid season on cards is not all that shocking, specially if one goes in for foreign cards from India, and hand painted productions on canvas or muslin, done by the students of the Institute of Fine Arts.

It was not such a done thing to send cards ten to 20 years ago, apart from official exchange of polite notes and signatures on an official level. Yet today New Market and Stadium card shops and centres like 'Jiras' Art Gallery', 'Aarong' and 'Shetuli', which specialise in greeting cards during Eid season are crowded with buyers. The customers are usually the younger generation, or parents who have children studying abroad. There is a fair exchange of Eid cards between Dhaka and the Middle East, apart from dotting aunts and mothers sending the paper love tokens to USA, Europe or even Australia and Russia.

The young painters at the Institute of Arts and Crafts have found a good venue to gain some money and flaunt their art with the advent of Eid. They sometimes use even oil paints on paper. These have at times been stuck on paper and sold at high prices. 'This is miniature art' a gallery owner offers his explanation for the high price of Tk 60 and over.

These exquisite and artistic productions, usually containing scenes of rural Bangladesh, though undoubtedly appealing to the eye, are expensive to post, specially if the destination is outside the Subcontinent. The rates for posting cards to India and Pakistan are still reasonable. The painted cards by students now use cloth instead of canvas, on most occasions, and fabric paints. They are to be found at New Market, Stadium and the Shahbagh 'Jiras' Gallery.

The prices and qualities of the cards vary. The same pack of UNICEF cards is at least Tk 10 more at Sheraton and Sonargaon Hotel shops as in the 'Kiosk' or 'Champak'. Similarly the cards at 'Shetuli' at Sonargaon are more expensive than the ones we get at the Green Road 'Shetuli'. 'We have our rents to cover', the shop girl explains.

You can get cards ranging from Tk 3 and Tk 4 — which you may be able to bargain and bring down, perhaps even lower if you are buying in large numbers, such as in the case of the Azad

and Ideal products — to imported Indian items, which may rocket up to Tk 40 or even Tk 50. This is so when the quality, size and pattern is unusual. The range moves from cheap local productions with gilt gold and silver tinsel decorations to the westernised creations from India. Thus you will get dogs, cats, cars and locomotive engines included for the western taste for the nephew born and brought up in Boston or London in the Indian Eid cards that are sold at New Market.

'There is no smuggling or blackmarketing going on', comments a shopkeeper. 'People coming from India bring in a handful.' Whatever is the process of the entree of the interesting Indian items, I have seen the market flooded with them the whole year round, providing for every occasion ranging from Eid to Christmas, birthday to anniversary.

The taste for Eid cards with camels, crescent moon, garish roses and other gaudy illustrations are still very much there. These are locally produced, embellished with nettings and straw. But their prices are not astronomical. I am surprised that people still go in for them at the New Market stalls as now the middle class can afford the more sophisticated finish or take the easy way out with the UNICEF, or BRAC cards with the straw finish.

Apart from the printed and painted cards there are the ones with tie-and-dye and leather embellishments. There are the embroidered ones too. There are also the specially designed.

Eid cards by the artist Suriya, which the connoisseur will find, are at 'Champak' at Sheraton.

Handmade cards range from Tk 15 to Tk 45. The batik is available for Tk. 15 while leather items on paper are Tk 30. The handstitched product is no less than Tk 35 while the fabric print on muslin is for Tk 25. The screen prints are for Tk 10. Cards with photos taken from nature are for Tk 20. The net and straw garish extravaganzas are for Tk 10.

Even if you should not possess enough to buy and post exotic Eid cards, Jiras' Art Gallery can provide you with a set of artistic postcards, prints of famous Bangladeshi paintings, while the National Museum has appropriate postcards for the season for Tk. 3 each. These contain Moghul motifs.

Indonesian team in city to attend IJO meet

By Staff Correspondent

A six-member Indonesian delegation arrived in city on Friday to attend the IJO meeting beginning here today (Saturday) at Sonargaon Hotel here.

The members of the team are Soepono Hardyo, Bahrun, Dr. Wahyudi Sugianto, Djauhari Oratmangaun, and Ludi Bone. Indonesian Ambassador Air Vice-Marshal (ret) Soemakno Ishwadi will lead the team to the IJO meeting. Others joining it will be Sisworo Wasdjoed and M Ischak.

Mentionably here, Indonesia, being a member of the IJO is importing a substantial quantity of Jute from Bangladesh.

An Indonesian, Poetray is the Chairman of the current IJO Council meeting which is to begin from April 23. The committee meeting will begin today (Saturday).

Expulsion demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) reiterated its demand to expel Jakir Hossain Jamal, Joint Convener of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) from DU within two weeks an emergency general meeting of the DUTA held on Sunday also called upon the government to arrest Jamal and his accomplices who heckled Dr Arefin and threatened him of murdering as he (Dr. Arefin) denied admission of a student who obtained only 13 out of 100 marks in the test for admission into the university.

A DUTA statement issued Friday night also urged the authorities to stop fresh admission into the university on the plea of the elections to the DU Central Students Union (DUCSU) and the hall student unions.

Eid gifts for Sonargaon employees

Andrew Mcburnie, General Manager of the Sonargaon Hotel distributed personal gifts to 600 employees of the hotel on Eid day, says a Press release.

All the employees of the hotel were deeply moved by the personal gesture of the General Manager, the press release added.

UK to help resolve ATP plane issue

The British government will make efforts to resolve the issue regarding the ATP plane purchased by Bangladesh, reports BSS.

This was decided at a meeting in Dhaka on Friday between Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman and the British High Commissioner in Bangladesh C.H.E. Emera.

It was mentioned at the meeting that the transaction was between two corporations Bangladesh Biman and the British Aerospace Company.

(Our Staff Correspondent adds: Biman had bought three ATP aircraft from the British Aerospace last year. Out of the three, two were delivered to Bangladesh and inducted to the domestic fleet. But in December last year, the planes were grounded following mechanical trouble and it was found later that the planes were unsafe for flight. It was also later found that the planes were bought at exorbitant prices, higher than the normal rates. Deposed President H.M.

Pahela Baishakh welcomed with festivity

Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bengali calendar year 1398, was celebrated throughout the country on Monday with traditional festivity and gaiety, reports BSS.

As the day dawned in the capital Dhaka thousands of people thronged to the Ramna Green to listen to the traditional musical soiree presented by the Chayanat, the country's leading cultural organisation.

As recorded in history, the Bengali year was introduced during the reign of Emperor Akbar. The Bengali era was made by a slight modification of Hirja era.

The most attractive programme of the day was a colourful procession brought out from the Art College, Dhaka. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Moniruzzaman Mia and eminent writer Shawkat Osman, led the procession.

Masked boys and girls in colourful dresses participated in the procession which ended at the Jatiya Press Club.

The Baishakhi Mela (Fair) at Azimpur girls high school drew huge crowds.

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) which organised the Mela, on Monday distributed awards to 10 best artists at a formal function.

The Nazrul Institute held a discussion meeting at the institute premises. The over-centurion writer Mohammad Nasiruddin presided over the function while Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs spoke on the occasion.

Bangla Academy arranged a cultural function at its premise on Monday to mark the day. Eminent singers took part in the function.

Minister for Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives Abdus Salam Talukdar and State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhuya were present at the cultural function organised by Jatiyabadi Sangskritik Sangstha.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy organised a cultural function at the Zia Auditorium in the morning. Child artistes took part in cultural function and poetry recitation.

Jhumur Lalitkala Academy organised a cultural function at Dhanmondi where State Minister for Information Nurul Huda was the chief guest.

The Rishish Shilpi Goshti held a musical soiree in front of the Shishu Park, in celebration of the day.

A painting exhibition depicting Bangladesh traditional arts and culture was held at the Shilpakala Academy.

The day had another signif-

icance for the traders as they organised their traditional 'Halkhata' functions for opening books of accounts. On this occasion, they entertained their customers to solicit their continued support and patronisation.

The day was a closed holiday. Newspapers brought out special supplements while Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television put out special programmes on the significance of the day.



Students of Arts College in city brought out a colourful procession Monday last to welcome the Bengali New Year 1398 B.S. —Star photo



Child artistes at Shishu Academy



Rabiragh, a cultural organisation, held a musical soiree Monday morning at Ramna Park. —Star photo

3 killed in Ctg accidents

CHITTAGONG, Apr 19: Three persons were killed in separate road accidents here yesterday, police said, reports BSS.

One Abdur Razzak (26) and his nephew Wahid Sadek Suman (16) were killed when a bus crushed their motorbike

at Junglekhan under Paltia upazila yesterday morning. Suman died on the spot while Razzak on way to hospital. The bus fled towards the city immediately after the incident.

Another Abdul Ali (50), a pedestrian was killed on the spot when he was run over by a

bus at Fouzdarhat under Sitakunda upazila yesterday morning. Sitakunda police seized the bus but the driver and staff of the bus were absconding.

Police recovered the bodies for post mortem and registered cases with the respective police stations.

Chanderhat programme

Chanderhat, a juvenile organisation held a cultural programme in the open stage of Shishu Academy at 9 am on the first day of Baishakh to mark the Bengali new year and the 17th founding anniversary of the organisation. City branches of the Chanderhat, says a press release.

National body to resolve CHT problem demanded

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill People's Council (CHTHPC) Friday reiterated its demand for constitution of a national committee to recommend ways and means for a permanent political solution to Hill Tracts problems.

General Secretary of the CHTHPC Otin Dewan in statement in Dhaka said, a broad based national committee consisting of Jatiya Sangsad members, political leaders, intellectuals and representatives of tribals could recommend appropriate measures to solve the long-drawn problems of the Hill Tracts.

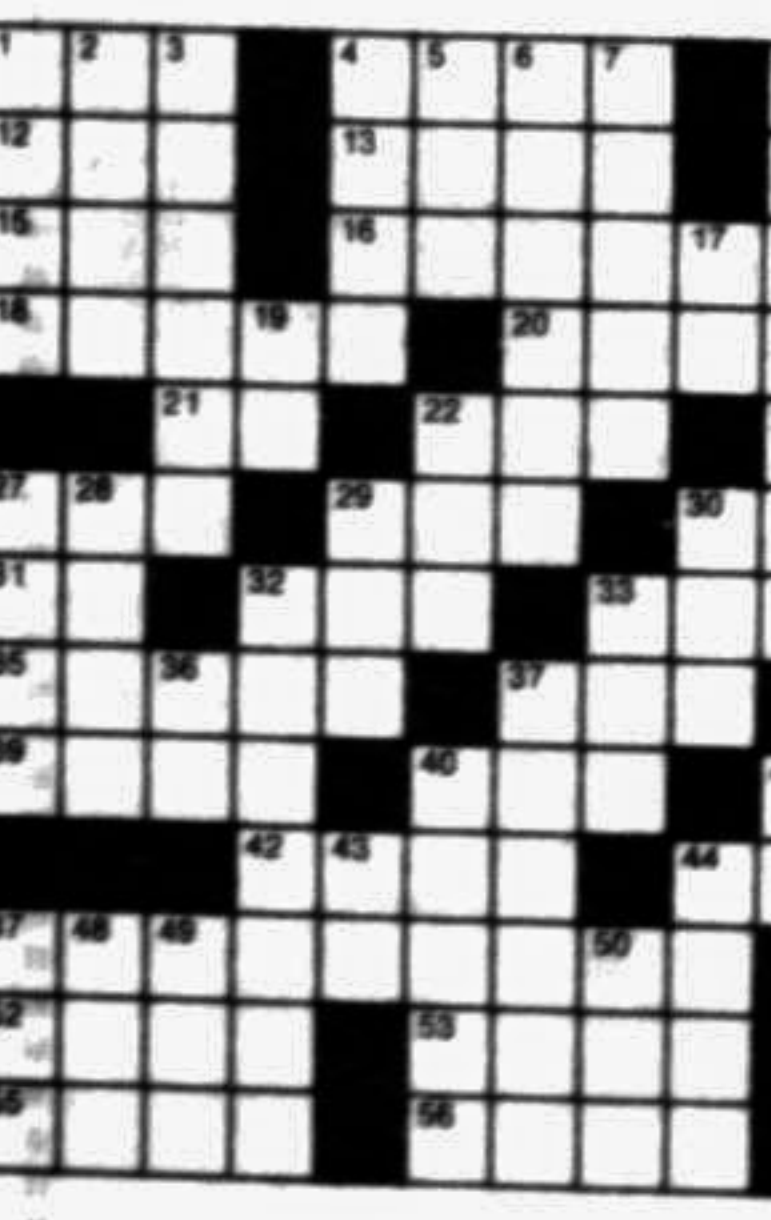
He demanded immediate repatriation of tribals from Indian refugee camps, an inquiry into the recent fire incident at Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner's Office and alleged occupation of tribals' lands by vested quarters.

He also called for annulment of what he called anti-people laws in Hill Tracts.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- Viper
 - Periods of time
 - Hill
 - Zodiac sign
 - Opening in fence
 - Solo
 - Small rug
 - Tried
 - African antelope
 - Prepare for print
 - As far as
 - One, no matter which
 - Vehicle
 - Time gone by
 - Unusual
 - Polishes
 - Negative
 - Grave
 - Possessed
 - Prohibit

- Answer to Previous Puzzle**
- 34 Equally
35 Hinder
37 Sn is its symbol
38 Wine cup
39 Pitcher track
40 Wheel track
41 Griffith ID
42 Winglike
43 Repeal
44 Amassed
45 Born
46 In sleeping quarters
47 Music's Fitzgerald
48 Make into leather
49 Escavates
50 Paper measure
51 Pippin
- DOWN**
- Egyptian singing girl
 - Fur-bearing animal
 - Couch
 - Mid-explosive
 - Rodent
 - Be present
 - Shabby colloq.
 - Furillo's
 - position
 - Technique
 - Fatehood
 - Young boy
 - Note of scale
 - Word for Nonsense
 - Find a sum
 - Above
 - Athletic group
 - Greek peak
 - Assistant
 - Developed
 - Paddle
 - Pale
 - Harbingers
 - Small amount
 - Tellurium symbol
 - Terrapin
 - Deputies
 - Indy entry
 - Before noon
 - French article
 - Abel's father
 - Tidy
 - Negative
 - Unearth
 - person
 - Kimono sash
 - Drumstick
 - Guido's high note



Weather

Dry spell to continue

By Staff Correspondent

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country till Sunday morning and heat wave will persist over the country during the next 24 hours. Meteorological Department says.

On Friday the highest temperature recorded in Rajshahi was 38.6 degree Celsius while the lowest temperature recorded in Rangpur was 16.2 degree Celsius. The day temperature will remain nearly unchanged till Sunday, the Met office reports.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: The rainfall activities may increase.

Sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.22 pm and rises on Sunday at 5.33 am.

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Maximum	Minimum	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	37.2	24.2	42	35
Rajshahi	34.4	26	78	64
Chittagong	38.6	17.4	36	30
Khulna	36.8	22.4	62	42
Cox's Bazar	33.5	26	75	74
Sylhet	35	21	88	46
Rangamati	36.5	24.6	73	53
Comilla	36.8	27.4	74	70
Iswardi	38.4	17.3	36	30
Barisal	36	25.5	85	55
Rangpur	35.5	16.2	49	27
Dinajpur	36.8	16.6	32	37

BFCC Biman Flight Catering Centre

Zia International Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Ref: BFCC/FIN/105/91/743 Date: 08-04-1991

TENDER NOTICE NO. 05/91

BFCC (Biman Flight Catering Centre) invites separate sealed Tenders from bonafide suppliers/contractors/Dry Cleaners having adequate experience in supplying uniform cloths & washing of staff uniform & Linen items for supply of the following uniform cloths & entering into annual contract for washing of staff uniform & Linen items for 1991.

Sl.No.	Name of items	Schedule selling period	Time and date of submitting tender	Time and date of opening tender
01.	UNIFORM CLOTHS	20.04.91 to 27.04.91	1100 hours 28.04.91	1200 hours 28.04.91
02.	WASHING OF UNIFORM	20.04.91 to 27.04.91	1100 hours 28.04.91	1200 hours 28.04.91

Schedule of Tender along with other terms & conditions may be obtained on application in the official letter head pad during office hour on payment of Taka 200.00 (Taka Two Hundred) only for each set from the office of the Manager Finance, BFCC, Zia International Airport, Kurmitola. No schedule will be sold on the date of opening tender. Tender may be submitted in any BFCC Tender Box kept in the following places/offices:

- BFCC Main Gate, ZIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka.
- Biman Admin Building, Security Gate, ZIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

Photocopy of valid Trade Licence, Income Tax Clearance Certificate, Experience Certificate duly attested by competent authority and earnest money of Taka 10,000 (Taka ten Thousand) only in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled Bank duly pledged in favour of BFCC must be enclosed with each Tender, otherwise the offer will be treated as cancelled.

BFCC Management reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Tenders and change the terms & conditions, extend the date of opening of tender and increase or decrease the quantity of items without assigning any reason.

A.D. MAHBOOBUL ALAM
COUNTERPART TO
GENERAL MANAGER BFCC.

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