

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

The Englishman Abroad

by S. Bari

The green hills of Sylhet rise in the background, while an incongruous group of Britons on lungs and salwar-kameez chat under the picnic shade. The conversation revolves around experiences in Bangladesh: stereotypes, surprises, prejudices, affinities. It is the annual conference of the Bangladesh branch of Voluntary Service Overseas. On the occasion, our correspondent interviewed VSO's director, Jeremy Iles.

Iles arrived in January at a new job in his first-ever overseas posting. As director of the London Wildlife Trust, he required management and public relations skills which he hopes to put to good use with VSO. "Basically, I co-ordinate all VSO activities, assess new projects, liaise with the government, and organise orientation for new volunteers." VSO operates on one basic idea. Wherever a particular skill is needed, such as health care, teaching, or management, VSO endeavours to supply that demand. Volunteers are required to have prior work experience, and are expected to transfer their skill to a local counterpart. Part of Iles' job is to co-ordinate the demand with the supply.

"Local NGOs, government agencies and departments, or local branches of the UN give us their requirements, then we try to match available applicants in London to the job. Volunteers are carefully screened and selected. It's highly regarded work back in England. The unique thing about us is that we are paid by the agency who requested our services, and so pay is on the local scale. People who come are really giving up a lot, so we like to be sure that they match the needs of the country, that their presence is truly required."

"What sort of work do VSOs do? The highest demand is in textiles and handicraft, income-generation, and in health-care fields such as physiotherapy. There is also a latent demand for computer expertise among small organizations."

The Peace Corps is the body most identified with the import of skill. But Iles refuted any similarity with the Corps. "First of all, VSOs are all professional, experienced people who have passed difficult tests to obtain these posts. The average age is higher than Peace Corps volunteers, who are less experienced. Secondly, we are more independent from our government." Despite the fact that VSO is funded 85% by the

British government, Iles maintains, "We are not an arm of the High Commission. In fact, VSO can choose to operate in countries where Britain has no official presence."

The Bangladesh government is increasingly reluctant to extend the permits of volunteers who have spent two or three years here. When asked whether this is a bone of contention, Iles answered carefully: "The use of expatriate expertise must be essential before a worker is imported. Naturally, the state prefers to see local manpower tapped to the maximum. The skill area of a VSO can be anything, as long as there is absolutely no local person who can fit the bill. After a couple of years, the government rightly expects the skill to have been transferred, and sees no need for the expatriate to remain. This is a perfectly logical attitude." Iles also denies any conflict with the NGO affairs bureau, the government agency with which he has direct contact. "Every government has the right to practice quality-control on the foreign aid it gets."

"Personally, during my stay in Dhaka, I'd like to see that people and projects are making the right connections. Here the attitude towards work is very different. I think we can contribute to efficiency. Management in NGOs is an area in which we can play a positive role." There are potential money-making fields which Iles feels have scope for further expansion. "Ceramics, for example. We could bring a potter, someone who knows how to run an efficient organization."

Part of VSO's conference dealt with what they called "Images of Bangladesh". Participants discussed and debated their views of the country. With few exceptions, there was an obvious effort to look for positive feelings. Since the majority of VSOs work in small-town or rural settings, they witness both the best and the worst of the country. The famine-stricken image is a base against which all positive images must fight a constant battle. Iles spoke of his personal reactions.

"There is no concept of privacy. It just doesn't exist. That can be very tiring. Also, there is basically little to do with one's leisure time. That is another concept which doesn't seem to exist here. But I find it visually and culturally stimulating. It's all so different. This may be rather esoteric, but I like looking at rickshaw paintings."

and Director Golam Kibria also spoke on the occasion.

Prof. Miah said death of the children and recent cyclone are painful and tragic for the whole nation.

Later, the Minister led a procession, participated by a number of children and juvenile organisations, including Girls Guide Association, Under Privileged Children's Educational Programme (UCEP), Shapla Sramaker Ashar, Chanderhat, Surjamukhi and Phulkuti.

Eminent scientist Dr Abdullah-al-Muti Sharafuddin and Director General of Bangla Academy Prof. Haroon-ur-Rashid among others joined the procession.

Palli rationing system being evaluated

The State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda told parliament Saturday that government would take decision on the basis of evaluation whether the Palli rationing system would be abolished or not, reports UNB.

Replying to a question from Mukhlesur Rahman (AL) he said, the effectiveness of Palli rationing system was now being evaluated.

In reply to another question from Rahmat Ali (AL) the State Minister said, authorities received allegations against some Palli ration dealers. Actions have been taken against some Palli ration dealers either by cancelling the dealership or placing them under suspension for their corrupt practices.

Replying to a question from A.T.M. Alamgir (BNP), the State Minister said, there is a provision to appoint Palli ration dealer for each 750 units as recommended by a committee formed by the government in this regard.

Recovered arms exhibited at Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, May 11: A huge quantity of fire arms and ammunition, recovered from 15 districts of Rajshahi division during the last four months, were exhibited Saturday at Rajshahi Police Line ground, reports BSS.

The recovered illegal fire arms and ammunition are 15 rifles, 164 country-made pipe guns and pistols, 12 single and double barrel guns, 2 revolvers, 1 pistol, 1 SLR, 17 granades, 8 cocktails, 1628 bullets of rifle, 258 bullets of gun, 256 bullets of SLR and 112 bullets of SMG, an official handout said.

PROGRAMME

Newspaper Employees Federation

A meeting of Bangladesh Newspaper Employees Federation will be held tomorrow at 12 noon at the 2nd floor of Dainik Bangla, a press release said.

The meeting will discuss the situation prevailing in newspapers including Dainik Desh and Bangladesh Observer. President and General Secretary of each unit have been requested to attend the meeting.

Musical soiree

Artistes Sayed Abdul Hadi, Sadia Afrin Malik, Fatema Tuz Zahora and Abu Bakar Siddik will voluntarily render songs at an open stage at Bangla Academy today (Sunday) at 5 pm to raise fund for cyclone victims.

61 bags of wheat looted from Chilmari Godown

State Minister for Food Mr. Nazmul Huda told the Jatiya Sangsad Saturday that dacoits looted 5.195 tonnes of wheat in 61 bags from Chilmari Godown under Kurigram district by breaking open the Godown at 3 am on December 18 last year, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Mr. Satish Chandra Roy (AL-Dinajpur), the State Minister said no other theft or dacoity was committed in any of the godowns of the country during January to December period in 1990.

The State Minister informed the House that the police had arrested one Assistant Food Inspector and two dacoits of Chilmari Food Godowns on charge of dacoity. Police investigation was in progress. They were put under suspension, he added.

Mr. Huda said no information about such incident from Chittagong division could be given as tele-communications remained disrupted.

Weather

Nor'wester likely

Rain/thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions. Day temperature likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Kalbatshakhi squally warning: Kalbatshakhi (nor'wester) squally from west north westerly directions with speed 90-120 kilometers per hour or more likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka division and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Jessore, Kushtia, Noakhali, Comilla.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.32 pm and rises on Monday at 5.17 p.m.

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

Highest temperature of 36.1 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi while lowest of 23.2 degree in Bogra.

Rain/thundershower occurred at few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions. Weather remained dry over Dhaka division. Amount of rainfall recorded are: Sylhet 5 cm, Srimangal 3 cm, Comilla 2 cm, Majidi Court 1 cm.

Temperature and humidity of some important towns and cities on Saturday were:

Town/City	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	max	min 9 a.m. 6 p.m.
Dhaka	31.0	24.6 86 83
Rajshahi	36.1	28.4 78 60
Khulna	34.8	27.8 79 74
Bairaal	31.6	27.4 85 82
Rangpur	28.2	- 80
Dinajpur	30.8	23.7 89 60
Sylhet	23.0	- 91
Satkhira	35.0	28.5 75 70
Ishwardi	35.0	28.4 75 73

APSU saline project starts production

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Professor Mantruz-zaman Miah inaugurated a saline project organised by the All Party Students Unity on Saturday.

The project will start producing packets of oral saline for the cyclone victims from today. About 80 students will work in two shifts to produce more than 15 lakh packets of saline.

Fanfani lauds relief activities

Madame Maria Pia Fanfani, Chairperson of Italian Red Cross and wife of a former Italian Prime Minister, Friday met Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed reports BSS.

She appreciated the gigantic relief operation mounted by the government



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina receiving relief materials at her Dhanmondi residence from Ms. Habiba Alam, (extreme left), Convenor of Mahila Kallyan Parishad and other members of the organisation for the cyclone victims on Thursday.

Hasina visits tornado-hit Gazipur

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Parliament Sheikh Hasina Saturday visited the tornado-affected villages of sadar upazila of Gazipur district, reports BSS.

She distributed some cash and relief materials among the affected people of Bhogra, Degerchala, Jajhar and Sharifpur villages.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof. M. A. Mannan, who is also local MP met the Leader of the Opposition and they discussed the extent of damage wrought by the tornado.

Sheikh Hasina went from house to house, talked to the affected people and enquired about their welfare. She consoled those who lost their near and dear ones in the tornado that lashed the area on May 7.

She offered فاتحة at some of the graves of the victims of the tornado.

Sheikh Hasina visited the damaged Standard Ceramic Industries Limited and Degerchala Chhotdana M.U. Senior Madrasha. She donated Taka five thousand to the madrasha, which was razed to ground by the tornado.

Mr. Rahmat Ali, MP, Dr. Asfar Hossain Mollah, MP and the Upazila Chairman Ahsanullah Master accompanied the Leader of the Opposition during her three-hour visit.

Affected people to get help for rebuilding houses: Saifur

CHITTAGONG, May 11: Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman today said the re-construction works of the devastated embankments in the coastal areas would be taken up this week under a test relief programme, reports BSS.

It will ensure protection of the areas from floods and provide employment opportunities to the people, he said.

The government will also provide assistance both in cash and kind for reconstruction of houses of the affected people and provide cash to the farmers for resuming agriculture production, he added.

The Minister was talking to people while visiting the most devastated areas of Banskhali, Kutubdia, Chokoria and Anwara in Chittagong. He was accompanied by ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of NBR Nurul Hussain Khan and Member, Planning Commission M Sirajuddin. He assured the people that every possible step would be taken for their total rehabilitation.

Tk 99cr Rly property damaged by cyclone

CHITTAGONG, May 11: Property worth about Taka 99 crore belonging to Bangladesh Railway were damaged by the catastrophic cyclone of April 29, railway sources told BSS Saturday.

The sources said, the loss of railway would have been much higher if timely measures were not taken to shift a number of railway engines, wagons and bogies to safer places.

The railway authorities, immediately after the announcement of danger signal by the meteorological depart-

ment, shifted railway engines, wagons and bogies from port and other outside areas to the mainsheds on emergency basis. This timely measure helped railways avert losses of crores of Taka.

The sources said, despite taking all out precautionary measures, the devastating cyclone caused enormous damage to the railway stations, tracks, workshops, stores, bridges, office buildings, residential quarters, water supply system, electric installations, telecommunications and signal networks.

The sources said the preliminary assessment showed that damage to the railway stations, tracks, boundary walls, office and residential buildings, water supply and drainage system was about 88,09,75,000 Taka.

The loss in the electrical heads including damage to the over-head lines, light fittings, sub-station equipment, transformers, switch gears, power pumps and residential installations was about Taka 8,28,78,000.

Major changes in admn

By Staff Correspondent

The Principal Secretary of President's Secretariat Khorshed Alam has been appointed Principal Finance Secretary of the Finance Division under Finance Ministry, says a government handout. His appointment was announced Saturday in supersession of the earlier order to appoint Mir Mostafizur Rahman as the Secretary of Finance Division.

Rahman has been serving World Bank as its Alternate Executive Director. Lt Col (ret'd) Heshamuddin Ahmed, the Secretary of Relief Ministry has been transferred and appointed Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

M Akhtar Ali, the Additional Secretary of Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry has been appointed Additional Secretary of the Relief Ministry.

Education Ministry Zamil Chowdhury has been appointed as the Chittagong Regional Relief Coordinator.

A M Alimuzzaman, Joint Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Ministry has been appointed Director General of Land Records and Survey Directorate on deputation.

Md Golam Kibria, Joint Secretary, Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry has been appointed Chairman, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) on deputation.

A T M Giasuddin, Joint Secretary of Works Ministry has been appointed Commissioner, Khulna Division. The service of

Col Abdul Matin, AMC, who was working on deputation as Inspector General of Prison, has been placed under Defence Ministry for a suitable appointment in the army. Col Md Iskander Hossain, AMC, has been appointed Inspector General of Prison.

Mahfuzul Islam, Registrar of Cooperative Societies has been appointed Director General of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) on deputation.

The Commissioner of Khulna Division A K M Fazul Haque Meah has been appointed Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

DU student dead

By Staff Correspondent

A second year student of Dhaka University History department died of cardiac arrest while playing football Saturday morning.

Mohammed Zinnatul Ferdous collapsed in the field after he kicked the ball at about 6.45 am.

Zinnat was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

A good sportsman Zinnat was a resident student of Ziaur Rahman Hall.



Portrait of the student who died.

CARE engineer missing

Ibrahim Ali Akhund, a 44-year-old engineer of CARE-Bangladesh has been missing since May 3. Ibrahim was travelling with other CARE staff from Char Bata to Hatiya with relief goods for cyclone victims. When the seven-ton trawler sank, all the CARE staff reached safe ground except Ibrahim.

CARE-Bangladesh is receiving assistance from the local government officials and army officials in many areas including Ramgati, Chandpur, Haimchar, Narayanganj and Saderghat have been searching for Ibrahim.

Any body knowing his whereabouts has been requested to contact CARE-Bangladesh at House No. 63, Road, No. 7/A, Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka-1209. Phone no. 814195-8 and 814207-09, says a press release.

**Wanted Lady Secretary**

Newage Group of Companies requires the services of a Lady Secretary for the Managing Director of the group. Candidates must have minimum qualification of graduation degree and/or H. S. C. or equivalent in English medium school and should be able to read, write, and speak in English. Candidate should have shorthand and typing qualifications. Computer operation with minimum 2 years experience in Word Perfect, Word Star, Lotus 1 2 3 and dBase will be given preference. Age limit 30 years. Experienced, efficient, smart and deserving candidates will be offered attractive remuneration. Please apply in confidence along with Bio-data, passport size photograph and copies of certificates and testimonials immediately so as to reach this office on or before 20th May, 1991. All applications will be kept confidential.

**Newage Group of Companies**  
42/E Indira Road  
Dhaka 1215  
Tel: 812704, 811974

**BTMC Tender Notice**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by the Chief Engineer, BTMC, Bastra Bhaban, 7-9 Kawran Bazar C/A., Dhaka for replacement of G. P. sheet Gutter of Factory Building at Ahmed Bawany Textile Mills, Demra, Dhaka amounting to Tk. 3,00,080/- from A-4 and above enlisted contractors of BTMC.

Earnest money of Tk. 7500/- must be submitted with the tender in favour of BTMC in the form of Bank Draft/DD/PO etc. from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.

Tender papers may be purchased @ Tk. 400/- per set non-refundable on or before 25-05-91 from the Additional Chief Accountant (HO), BTMC, Bastra Bhaban, 7-9 Kawran Bazar C/A., Dhaka or Accountant-in-charge, BTMC Shipping Office, 79, Agrabad C/A., Chittagong or Accountant-in-charge of the Mills. Tenders will be received on 26-05-91 upto 11.00 a. m. in the office of the Chief Engineer as mentioned above in presence of the bidders if any.

TMC-34  
DFF(BA)-3827/9/5

Children will get priority in relief

Prof. A G M Badruddouza Chowdhury, Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs, Saturday said children should receive priority in relief and rehabilitation whenever they were affected by any natural calamity, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a children's rally and art exhibition as the chief guest, at Shishu Academy in Dhaka, the Minister said, most of the cyclone victims, whether dead or alive, were children and women.

The function was organized by the Shishu Academy as part of the relief activities of the Ministry of Social Welfare Affairs for creating sympathy among the people of the country for the cyclone affected people.

The Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University, Prof. Muniruzzaman Miah, Mohammad Fayezullah, Secretary of the Social Welfare Ministry, Chairman of the Academy, Dr Anwara Mansur

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

- Swiss —
- "Moon-struck" star
- Tooth crown
- Farm structure
- Hawaiian rootstock
- Tint
- Harbor
- Gift
- Bodies of soldiers
- Dines
- Arms of "Dolphin Cove"
- Hebrew letter
- Stroke
- "Logan's" tree
- Christmas decoration
- Cutting tool
- Abstract being
- P., —, M

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

33 Article  
34 "Nightmare" Street  
35 "— tu, Brute"  
36 Smooths the feathers of  
38 Split — soup  
39 Christmas gift  
40 Nilon symbol  
41 Presents for Dad  
42 Above and touching  
44 "— 17"  
46 Comfort  
48 Ventilated  
51 Carpet  
52 Sleeping quarters: colloq.  
54 Wash  
55 Bitter vetch  
56 Church part  
57 Pintail duck

**DOWN**

- Cleopatra's
- Falshood
- Typewriter parts
- Wrong Number"
- Lucy on "Dallas": inits.
- Occur
- Sins
- Fish eggs
- Defraud
- Female relative
- Fondles
- "Wuthering Heights": star: inits.
- of approval
- Think, suppose
- Oak or maple
- Stunted person
- Writes
- British conservative
- Christmas visitor
- Witty expression
- Small explosive
- Penetrates
- Chinese factions
- Formal attire
- Measure
- "— of Duty"
- Soft mud
- Note of scale
- Harem room
- Night before
- Billy
- Williams
- Myself

**SLING RIDER**

FAIRER ELEVEN  
AT KEEPS NICE  
DIP DARES LES  
ERRS TONES NT  
SEEPS ATTESTS  
SOLE SODA  
RESTORE NEVER  
IX SPANS RENA  
APO ESTOP DUG  
TENY EERTE RE  
ARCHER ELATED  
THEEMS SLUMS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100