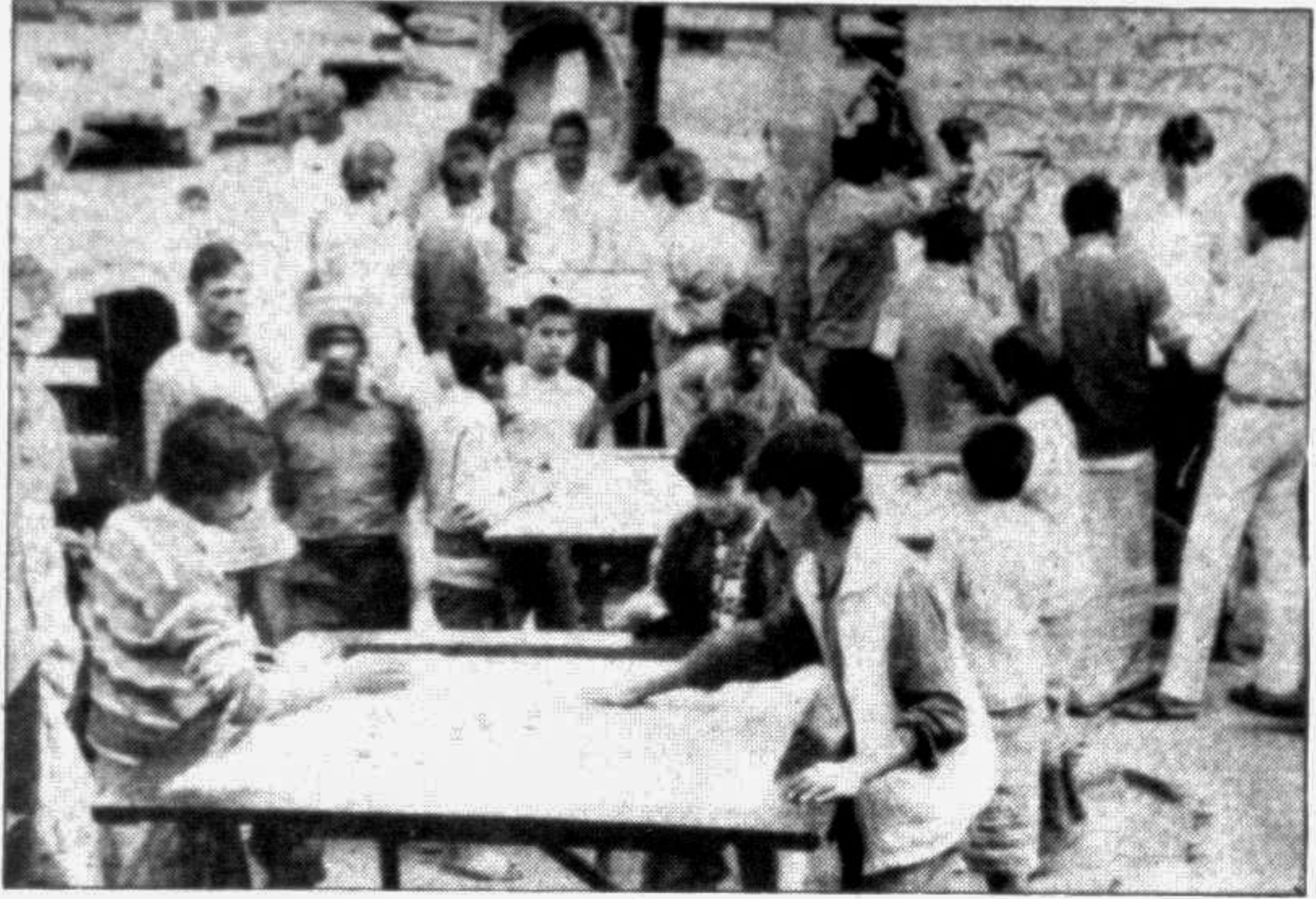


Dhaka Day by Day

Fun Boards on the Street

by Sabah Chowdhury



Playing carrom is now a street-corner pastime

— Star photo.

Who can deny that he has not at least once, tried a hand, at a game of carrom? For, it was very much a part of a boy's childhood in our city even a few decades back.

Every traditional household in Dhaka, once upon a time, used to own a 'carrom board' (from carrombole). And this was one of the best ways for youngsters of a family to spend their leisure hours. Member of a large extended family, living in the same house would also indulge in this game.

This game of competition in brief, requires a minimum of two and maximum of four persons. The counters are nineteen in total, with nine black ones, and nine white, and one (1) red, called the centre-piece. Each of the black and white ones have one point, while the red one has five (5) points. Thus it is a game of twenty-nine points. Before starting the game, the counters are neatly placed in a flower like design at the centre of the square wooden board, generally yellowish in colour. The side which starts, has the white ones. The partners able to hit the largest number of counters into the four side corner pockets of the board, win the game.

But with changing time and trends, our pattern of living has quietly undergone a change. Life has become more mechanical and complicated, with less and less of leisure hours. Modern electronic age has taken away many traditional things from our everyday life.

and just as we see that the horse-carriage, kite-flying, etc. a one-time image of Dhaka's culture, is almost on the verge of extinct. This game of carrom has been transferred from the homely atmosphere of a house, to the noisy streets of Dhaka.

Carrom is therefore now, mostly an outdoor game. In the thickly populated areas (known as Mohallahs), in the old part of the city, this game is still holding on. The carrom board and the counters are lent out either on hourly basis or game wise.

It is indeed an interesting sight to watch the game being played in open air, most commonly at a corner of a busy lane. As the game progresses, even the onlookers that gather around keep getting excited.

Milon, one such lenders of the board says, "I lend the board at Taka 4 per game, and not on hourly basis." A resident of Narinda, says the peak hours of his business is from 3 p.m. in the afternoon to 10 p.m. at night. He earns about Taka 120 per day. He is in this trade for the last four to five years.

"In my opinion this is a harmless game, as it is not played for money," says Milon. According to him it is not affecting the players morally.

Although there is a stiff competition in this age of video-games and what not, this simple form of play, is still popular, perhaps as a reminder of a time fast disappearing into history.

Two toll collectors arrested in city

Police caught two toll collectors red handed from a residential hotel in the city Sunday evening, reports UNB. Abu Ahad Chowdhury and Shahid Chowdhury, two alleged toll collectors, demanded Tk 2,000 from Gopal Chandra Das, Manager of Hotel Athiti at Hatkhola.

The manager raised hue and cry which drew the attention of the police of the nearby Wari police out post. Police rushed there and caught them red-handed.

Both Abu Ahad and Shahid were released from court after being arrested by Kotwali thana in a case on Saturday, police said.

IRC coordinator leaves for Chittagong

Valli Seshan, Coordinator, International Resource Centre (IRC, Bangalore) of Service Civil International and Kabir Jaithirha along with Bangladesh Branch Treasurer and Relief Coordinator Mian Akbar Hussein left Dhaka on Sunday for feasibility study of planning short as well as long term rehabilitation programme in cyclone-prone coastal-belt and off-shore islands of greater Chittagong district and in particular Ujantia village and Ward No 3 of Magnama Union wherethin SCI-Bangladesh concentrated its emergency relief under Chokoria Upazila (Cox's Bazar).

Polytechnic classes begin

CHITTAGONG, May 27: All classes of Bangladesh-Swedish Polytechnic Institute at Kaptai will resume from today an institute press release said, reports BSS.

Coconut trees to be planted along coastal embankments

Bangladesh may seek compensation for Greenhouse effect

The government is likely to seek international help in assessing environmental impact of last month's devastating cyclone and tidal surge in coastal areas and the offshore islands.

"We are worried about the ecological degradation caused by the disaster and its long term impact on life and livelihood of the coastal people," State Minister for Forest and Environment Abdullah Al Noman told UNB.

A number international organisations including UNDP already offered expertise and other assistance to assess the environmental impact of the cyclone and work out the remedies, the state

minister said. "We assume the impact has been enormous long-term tackling of the problem would pose tremendous burden on the country's scarce resources and weak expertise", he said.

Bangladesh may even ask for compensation from the industrialised countries for the damage wrought by the cyclone on green house effect. Questioned Noman: "We are not responsible for the green house effect, so why should we bear the cost alone?"

Referring to various types of environmental damages, the minister pointed out that water — both surface and

underground, got heavily or moderately polluted by the surge of sea water which brought in organic substances.

There are also reports of large-scale erosion and soil-turning-saline, threatening the productivity of arable land, he added. Long-term impact on aquatic ecology is also very much likely, Noman maintained.

Enormous destruction of forest resources would inflict a severe strain on the ecology of the coastal belt, he cautioned.

About immediate remedial effort of the government, the state minister said, water resilient mangrove trees would be planted around

the coastal belt.

The government also plans to plant wind resilient coconut trees on the coastal embankments to make them stronger, he said. Coconut plants will be imported from Sri Lanka and Malaysia, he added.

Abdullah Al Noman also pointed out that unplanned shrimp farming increased the extent of damage.

Widespread destruction of mangrove trees by shrimp farms took place in the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar. Prior permission of the environment department should be made mandatory in leasing out of land for shrimp projects, he observed.

Iran offers to help return of stranded Pakistanis

Stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh Monday reiterated their demand of total and unconditional repatriation to their homeland, Pakistan, reports UNB.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 8th Annual General Conference of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC), the leaders of the languishing ethnic community commonly known as Biharis, maintained that "it is the sole responsibility of Pakistan" to solve the lingering issue of their repatriation.

Speaking as Chief guest, the Iranian Ambassador in Dhaka Mohammed Ganjidoost expressed his and his government's solidarity with the "just

cause of the suffering 2.5 lakh people in 54 different camps" in Bangladesh.

Ganjidoost said, "It is unfortunate that the problem remained unresolved despite recognition of the rights of Biharis by all concerned. Muslims all over the world desire that the Biharis return to their cherished homeland as soon as possible", he added.

The Iranian envoy in his valedictory address wished that the issue of repatriation would be resolved with the help of brethren from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Rabeta al-Alam al-Islami and others.

"Love for motherland is an integral part of Imam (Faith) and advised the forgotten refugees to adhere to the

Islamic path in attaining their dearest goal", he said.

Chief Patron of SPGRC Mohammed Nasim Khan called for resolute action to redeem the 20 year-old problem of repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis.

"The time of negotiation and settlement is over — we have to plunge into action", the 69 year-old leader of the beleaguered community lamented.

The inaugural session of the four-day moot was also addressed by representative from Mercy International of United States Omar Al-Qari, Anwar Alam and Dr. Abdul Jabbar.

20,540 tubewells repaired

The government has repaired 20,540 tubewells till Sunday to ensure the supply of pure drinking water to the people in the cyclone affected areas, reports BSS.

According to an official handout, 4,080 new tubewells have been installed in the affected areas besides completing purification process of 84,362 tubewells.

About one thousand workers having knowledge of technical know-how are now engaged in the cyclone battered areas to install new tubewells and repair old ones.

Fiftytwo truck-load of tubewell equipment has been despatched to the distressed areas Sunday, the handout added.

TV relay station in Akhaura shortly

State Minister for Information Mohammad Nurul Huda said the Government is actively considering to set up a TV relay station at Akhaura, reports BSS.

He was talking to journalists in Comilla on Sunday and said the present Government believes in freedom of the press and welcomes any constructive suggestion.

The State Minister asked the journalists to be objective in reporting. He opined that criticisms that hamper socio-economic progress should be avoided.

Mr. Huda recalled the contributions of the members of the Fourth Estate to democratic movement and said the journalists could contribute their mite to help democracy firmly established.

Later the State Minister at-

tended a function on Nazrul Jayanti, organised by Comilla Nazrul Parishad.

TV Tuesday

- 5-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
- 5-15 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5-20 News in Bangla
- 5-30 Film: Young Doctor Kildars
- 5-55 Special programme in memory of Joyntul Abaden
- 6-30 Shikhhangon
- 7-05 Nazrul Songs
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-45 Ayomoy: Drama Series
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Reporting on Relief programme
- 10-40 Drama Series: On the Fringe
- 11-30 Khabar/The news
- 11-45 Close Down

Hasina condemns arrest of Ajker Kagoj editor

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on Monday condemned the arrest and harassment of Chairman of the Editorial Board of daily 'Ajker Kagoj', its Editor and a Senior Reporter, reports UNB.

Kazi Shahed Ahmed, Chairman of the Editorial Board, Editor Naimul Islam Khan and Reporter Syed Borhan Kabir were arrested last Saturday for publishing a news item on alleged corruption of Finance Minister Saifur Rahman.

Hasina described the government action as a serious infringement on the right to freedom of journalists.

In a statement, she said after a long nine-year anti-autocracy struggle, people expected a truly democratic government in the country.

But unfortunately the present government has resorted to repressive measures in different areas including on administrative officials and journalists.

Programme on Diabetic Day opens today

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will inaugurate a special programme on "Diabetic Awareness Day" today (Tuesday) at 5-30 pm at Ibrahim Memorial Diabetic Centre, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Diabetic Samity will also observe the day throughout the country on the occasion of its 35th founding anniversary, said a press release.

Organised by the Samity, all district branches have been advised to publicise information about diabetes in cooperation with the local media and administration.

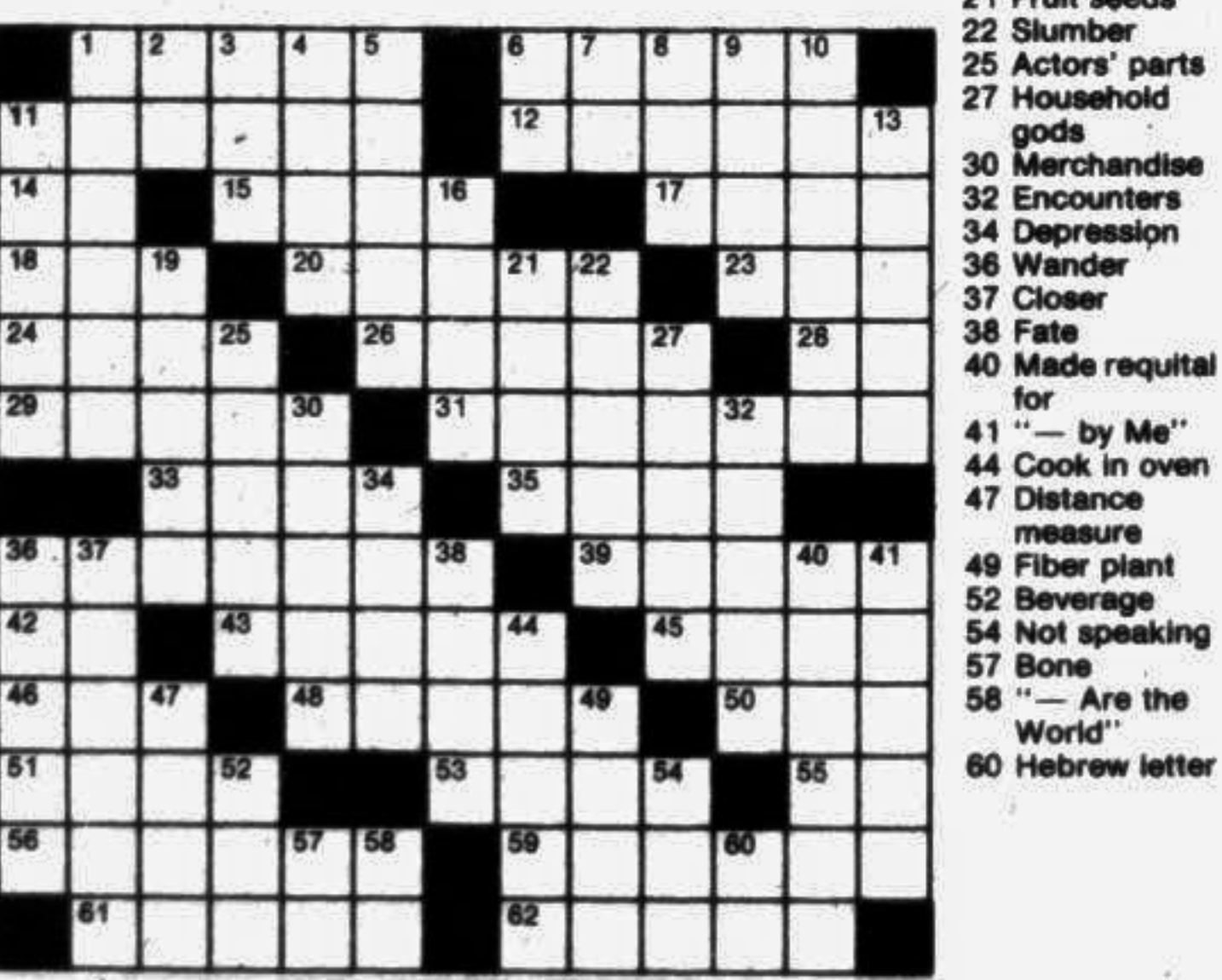
Fulfilment of pre-poll pledges demanded

By Staff Correspondent A meeting of the Mirpur branch of Sharishabari Association was held at its central office in Dhaka on Sunday.

The members of over one hundred families were present at the meeting which was presided over by M A Nazir.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 " — Flie"
 - 6 Started
 - 11 Waltzed
 - 12 Wipes out
 - 14 —, J, K, —
 - 15 Follow close behind
 - 17 Learning Tower city
 - 18 Everyone
 - 20 Pull out all the — (use everything possible)
 - 23 Unit of Siamese currency
 - 24 Approach
 - 26 Quiet
 - 28 — Mens
 - 29 "Broken —"
 - 31 Emitted vapor
- DOWN**
- 1 "Midnight"
 - 2 — garde



Answer to Previous Puzzle

33 Merry
35 Withered
36 Scoffed
39 Equals
42 Tellurium symbol
43 — Wences
45 Let it stand
46 Male sheep
48 Bend
50 Health resort
51 Solo
53 Cripple
55 " — American in Paris"
56 " — Submarine"
59 Slow-witted
61 Pee Wee or Della
62 Domesticated

3 Play segment
4 Oceans
5 Redacts
6 Extend ID
7 Tautonic deity
8 Opening

9 — Minor
10 Cuddle up
11 Actress Riggs
12 Surfeited
13 Parcels of land
19 Big
21 Fruit seeds
22 Slumber
25 Actors' parts
27 Household gods
30 Merchandise
32 Encounters
34 Depression
36 Wander
37 Closer
38 Fate
40 Made requital for
41 " — by Me"
44 Cook in oven
47 Distance measure
49 Fiber plant
52 Beverage
54 Not speaking
57 Bone
58 " — Are the World"
60 Hebrew letter



Asaduzzaman Noor and Saara Zaker in a play titled 'Oyomoy' staged at Shilpakala Academy in city on Monday in aid of cyclone victims. — Star photo

Weather

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent Light to moderate rain with thundershowers with one or two moderately heavy fall accompanied by temporary gusty wind nor'wester squall likely to occur at many places over Dhaka and Chittagang divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions till Wednesday morning, Meteorological department reports.

On Monday, the highest temperature recorded at Sathkira, was 36 degree Celsius. The day temperature till Wednesday morning likely to remain unchanged over the country, the met office forecasts.

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

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6.40 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5.12 am.

Temperature and humidity in some cities and towns of the country on Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Maximum	Minimum	9 am	6 am
Dhaka	37.6	23.5	93	84
Chittagong	32.4	26.2	80	86
Rajshahi	32.8	22.3	91	81
Khulna	32.7	27.8	84	78
Cox's Bazar	33	27	72	85
Jessore	33.6	25.6	Na	73
Sylhet	32.5	23.5	85	84
Rangamati	34.9	24.8	74	78
Barisal	30.5	27.4	87	93
Comilla	29	26.4	85	92
Bogra	30.8	23	95	82

Maximum temperature in some important cities of the region on Monday was:

Delhi —	36	degree	Celsius
Bangkok —	32	"	"
Beijing —	25	"	"

Body to resist corruption formed

A meeting was held on Sunday at Chandrabazar Singair in protest against corruption and violence, reports BSS.

Presided over by Alhaj Md. Akbar Ali, the meeting, formed a 25-member committee with Kamaluddin Ahmed as convener for resisting corruption and violence in the area.

City road named after S M Morshed

The main road linking Mirpur Road and Rokeya Sarani adjacent to "Abohawa Bhaban" has been named after late Justice Syed Mahboob Morshed, a Dhaka City Corporation press release said on Sunday, reports BSS.

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited from Bangladesh T&T Board enlisted contractors for execution of the following works. Tender schedule, terms and conditions of agreement, specification of drawing can be obtained on application from the office of the Director, C&W (Construction), 106 Kakrail, Dhaka: Divisional Engineer, Radio, Construction, Banani Bogra and the undersigned during office hours up to 06-06-91. Prescribed earnest money must be submitted with the tender in the form of Pay Order/ Bank Draft in favour of Divisional Engineer, Microwave Survey Division, Kushtia from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh.

Tenderers must produce (1) Financial solvency certificate, (2) Document of renewal for the current year, (3) Income Tax clearance certificate etc. at the time of purchasing tender and submit them with the tender.

Tenders will be received in the offices of the undersigned: Director, C&W (Constn) Dhaka and Divisional Engineer, Radio construction Bogra on 08-06-91 upto 12.00 noon. The tenders will be opened on the same day at 12.30 minutes at the said offices. The undersigned reserves all rights to accept or reject any tender or to reject all tenders without assigning any reason. No schedule will be sold on the date of opening tender.

S/No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Price of tender form (non-refundable)	Time limit for completion of work
1.	Construction of 800 sft residential house at Meherpur district headquarters	Tk 8,68,737/-	Tk 21,720/-	Tk 300/-	150 days
2.	Construction of 800 sft residential house at Chuadanga Microwave station	Tk 8,94,358/-	Tk 22,400/-	Tk 300/-	150 days
3.	Construction of 800 sft residential house at Jhenidah district headquarters	Tk 8,87,599/-	Tk 22,200/-	Tk 300/-	150 days
4.	Construction of 800 sft residential house at Kushtia Microwave Station	Tk 8,81,075/-	Tk 22,030/-	Tk 300/-	150 days
5.	Construction of 800 sft residential house at Magura Microwave Station	Tk 8,29,317/-	Tk 20,740/-	Tk 300/-	150 days

Executive Engineer
Microwave Survey Division
B.T. & T. Board
Kushtia
Phone : 3400

DFP (BA) 4297-25/5
G-156