

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Plenty Of Time To Stand Stare

by Fayza Haq

WHEN I first came to Dhaka, 22 years ago, a senior colleague commented that the city was a fine place for "addas". And I don't believe he was far from correct. At the gateways and corridors of Eskaton, Dhanmandi or Old Dhaka you are bound to get "ayas" with children, along with the local chauffeur, and with the "chowkidar" all discussing and analysing topics ranging from prices of fruit to politics and religion. "Paan", "supari" and cigarettes add to the pleasure.

The terraces of Old Dhaka homes are places where the "nanis" and "dadis" tell the family the splendour of the family past and revel in sentimental journeys through their memory lanes.

The children at breaktime at the local schools buzz around at will. They not only indulge in eating binges of ice lollies and cake slices, and short spells of games, but also in gossip, laughter and exchange of confidences. They say his mother is having an affair. She works in a bank and goes home only after an hour at the gym. Sohail's father is sure patient or "My brother in Boston has got a new girl friend. She's a Filipino and is very rich. He collects girls like people gather rare butterflies", or even "The neighbour's daughter is constantly on the telephone to talk with her boyfriend. And she is still at school and talking of elopement," are the oft-heard juicy gossips.

The students at the canteens at the university and college campuses have many more stories to exchange. Their talk will vary from entrance examinations to USA, clothes being sold at a sale, jewellery to be worn at the wedding, the casting off of a tedious boy-friend, to special prayers to be said during examinations to ensure success. Sometimes the relationship between the teachers and students are intimate, and students are invited over for tea and discussion on books. Once again there ensues the invariable talk of life abroad, cookery, prices of getting photographs washed and intriguing ads. on the newspapers.

There are no fascinating film shows in the city, except the one's being shown by the foreign cultural centres and the film societies, and there are only limited good plays to attend. When there are concerts, the prices are so high that the average middle-class person cannot attend them. The everyday flow of talk and chatter must suffice as adequate entertainment. Not everybody can afford VCRs and parents can be strict about how often the viewing may take place.

The "chaat"-shops are also places where young people can get together, have a snack at a reasonable price, and talk at leisure, without their elders interfering or commenting about the noise and laughter due to the guests in the house.

When the young husbands are earning and the wives do small part-time jobs, or are studying at computers, they sometimes take the occasional evening off to smoke and chat and play ludo, carrom, cards, on the basis of points, or low-budget bets, so that the entire evening's win is Tk 10 only. The men talk about their office situations, the political scenes in the country and abroad, while the women might exchange recipes and patterns for "shalwar-kameez" sets. Even if the mother-in-law may be fuming at home because she is left alone to entertain herself, while the young ones have taken wings, these "addas" will prevail and sometimes terminate even in a sumptuous meal, if the young hostess is in an obliging mood.

The canteens and cafes introduced by a few of the foreign cultural centres at Dhanmandi also provide places where people can come, play games like table-tennis, watch videos, and have tea or coca-cola. This again is a good break from the routine of existence and draws crowds of young people.

Similarly when students are meeting at the British Council or USIS or the Soviet Cultural Centre, or even the Goethe Institut, they are there not only to read the latest magazine, or collect the books that are essential for their studies, or even borrow cassettes. They are meeting their friends and exchanging news and views, which perhaps they cannot do over the phone — as there may not be a phone in the house, or there might be over-vigilant parents and guardians to arrest the spate of conversation.

The Chinese restaurants are also places where the young at heart get to talk and exchange ideas, apart from finding an excuse like a birthday or an anniversary to celebrate. Around Eskaton, Purana Paltan and Dhanmandi, these places charge reasonable rates. Once in a while, specially after receiving the pay-packet at the beginning of the month, one can indulge in lazy gossip session mingled with sweet and sour prawn and Thai soup.

One would be surprised how much of chatter and gossip takes place even at the "Milad-mehfil". Here one can pick up information about the latest engagement to take place in the family, the unfaithfulness of some erring male in the brood, or who has stolen whose boy-friend and is now crowing about it!

As for the clubs, the men go there not only to swim or play tennis or practice golf, and keep fit, or even exchange a hand of cards, but certainly also to meet their friends, chat, and air their views.

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Talking at leisure



Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan addressing a press conference at the National Press Club Wednesday. Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami also present.

## Steps to remove session jam in universities

The government recently constituted a high-powered committee headed by Member, Bangladesh University Grants Commission, Prof Mosharraf Hossain Khan, for submitting recommendations to remove session jams in the universities, reports BSS.

The committee has already prepared a questionnaire to elicit views and opinions from all concerned including students, teachers, executives, guardians and educationists aimed at finding the reasons of session jams and suggesting measures to remove them in the shortest possible time as well as taking up short and long term programmes in this connection.

## Dhaka to attend Peace Festival

Bangladesh will attend the International Peace Festival which begins at Manila, Philippines from September 7, reports UNB.

Organised by Asian Students Association, the festival will be attended by DUCSU Assistant General Secretary and Joint Convener of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Nazim Uddin Alam.

He will leave Dhaka for Manila today said a press release.

## One stabbed to death

One Abdur Rouf was stabbed to death by unidentified persons in broad day light at Ajampur in the city Wednesday, reports UNB.

Eyewitnesses said the incident occurred on a road, south of Rasulpur park in the area at about 3 pm.

Rouf, stated to be connected with several criminal cases, received injuries in head, chest, back and hands.

## Police patrol comes under attack : 20 injured

About 20 people, including three policemen and two ansars, were injured when a police patrol came under sudden attack near Shah Ali Bag slum at Mirpur section-1 Wednesday evening, reports UNB.

Police sources said that one Assistant Sub-Inspector, two constables and two ansars sustained injuries when a group of armed people from the slum attacked the police patrol at around 7.45 pm.

The attackers reportedly snatched away a rifle but police did not confirm it.

Seriously injured constable Sirajul Islam was operated at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital soon after he was rushed there, hospital sources said.

Further details of the incident were not immediately available.

## 163 arrested in Ctg

CHITTAGONG Sept 4 : Police rounded up 163 persons on various charges and recovered 13 fire arms and 58 rounds of ammunition from 12 districts of Chittagong range today under their Operation Doorbar-91, reports BSS.

## Private varsity sponsors assured all help

A delegation of the sponsors of the North-South University (NSU), a private university, called on Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof AGM Badruddoza Chowdhury at the latter's office in Dhaka Wednesday, reports BSS.

The members of the delegation apprised the minister of the various steps taken so far by the sponsors for establishing the NSU at an early date and requested him for according necessary permission in this regard. They informed that NSU shall be an independent degree awarding university with limited number of disciplines at the initial stage and courses will be set in line with those in the standard universities of the USA but keeping in view our country's requirements.

The Education Minister was appreciative of the efforts made by the sponsors in the field of higher education. He assured the members of the delegation that the government would do the needful after careful examination of the pros and cons of the matter for promotion of higher education in the country.

The members of the delegation included Muschuddin Ahmad, former Secretary and Ambassador, Chowdhury A K M Aminul Haq, former Adviser to the Acting President, A Kashem, past President of Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Dr

Mahbubul Haq, former Professor of Dhaka University and Nurul Hossain Khan, Secretary of Internal Resource Division.

## Alleged killer taken into police remand

By Staff Correspondent

One person was taken into police remand on Wednesday in connection with the murder of Aminul Islam at his residence in Taltala, Khilgaon on Monday last.

Sabuzbagh police had earlier taken Sulfa Parveen, a school teacher, into custody for interrogation after Aminul Islam was allegedly stabbed to death by a group of miscreants. Police had sought a seven day remand order but the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate granted only one day's remand for questioning.

Aminul Islam (45), an officer of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation, was allegedly stabbed repeatedly by a group of dacoits at his residence in Moulvirtek near the Taltala Market at around 8.15 Monday night, police said. He was rushed to DMCH where he succumbed to the injuries the same night.

The dacoits decamped with 11 ounces of gold ornaments and Taka 8,400 in cash, police added.

## 'Country will be treeless in next five years'

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Majed Kamal, an environment scientist working in America, expressed concern on Tuesday that Bangladesh would become treeless within the next five years due to wanton felling of trees.

He was addressing a discussion on Revolution of Solar Power at the auditorium of Civil Engineering Department at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

He said that it is also suspected that world's deposited oil would be exhausted within next 50 to 60 years which would cause an acute fuel crisis.

Only solar system can prevent such crisis, he added.

Jointly organised by Institute of Architects Bangladesh and Faculty of Architecture, the discussion meeting was presided over by Rabiul Islam, President of the institute.

## Most rivers rise

By Staff Correspondent

Most rivers registered rise during last few days and may rise further. Ganges at Pankha and Surma at Sunamganj crossed the danger mark, however, other rivers were flowing below that level Wednesday.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Division of Water Development Board said that the low-lying areas in Goalundo are likely to be inundated and Sunamganj may experience rain-fed flood during the next 24 hours. Chittagong and Cox's Bazar may experience localised flood due to heavy rainfall.

The authorities said that the rise of river water was caused by widespread rain on all the river basins. The rivers will continue to rise for some days, which may cause localised flood in some areas. However, the situation will start improving within a week with the fall of river waters.

According to reports available Wednesday the Ganges rises by 22 cm at Pankha in 24 hours and was flowing 41 cm

above danger level at that point. All the rivers of Ganges basin marked rise at all points.

In Meghna basin, Surma registered a remarkable rise by 53 cm at Sylhet and 25 cm at Sunamganj in 24 hours. The river was flowing 20 cm above danger level at Sunamganj.

Meghna at Bhatrab Bazar registered a rise by 17 cm but Kushiara and Manu recorded fall. The rivers in Brahmaputra basin and south eastern hill basin registered a rise at almost all the points.

## Eye of villager gouged during clash in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 4 : Neighbours allegedly gouged the left eye of Khowaj Ali during a clash at Croakerchar village in Alirtek union of Sadar upazila today, reports UNB.

Zakir Hossain (23), son of Khowaj Ali (45), was also critically injured in the clash while three of their relations received minor injuries.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted when some miscreants led by co-villager Bachhu attacked Zakir while he was taking bath in a pond.

Later, the miscreants stormed the house of Khowaj Ali and at one stage gouged his left eye.

## Weather

### Downpour likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office on Wednesday forecast rain or thunder shower with a few moderately heavy fall accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and many places of Rajshahi and Khulna divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm Wednesday.

Heavy fall may also occur at most places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Bogra, Rangpur, Barisal and Patuakhali.

Day temperature over the country may fall one to three degrees Celsius. Highest 88 mm rainfall was recorded at Cox's Bazar on Wednesday.

Rainfalls were also recorded at Sylhet, Mymensing, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Bhola, Bogra, Dinajpur, Rangamati and Srimangal.

Wednesday's highest temperature was recorded at Sylhet and lowest at Ishurdi.

Sunset today (Thursday) at Dhaka at 6.13 pm and sunrise Friday at 5.42 am.

Maximum and Minimum temperatures recorded at major cities and towns on Wednesday were:

Dhaka	29.5	25.4	92	90
Chittagong	27.4	24.7	95	86
Khulna	31.4	25.3	88	92
Rajshahi	31.4	25.0	92	98
Ishurdi	31.5	25.2	88	97
Sylhet	28.5	22.5	100	98
Feni	29.0	23.5	95	84
Cox's Bazar	27.0	24.8	100	92
Srimangal	31.4	24.6	83	85
Barisal	29.2	—	—	86
Mymensing	29.0	22.7	95	95

## PM asks for illegal arms recovery

CHITTAGONG, Sept 4 : Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the government officials to work with dedication to improve law and order and ensure security to public life, reports UNB.

Addressing the district level officials of Chittagong division at the local Circuit House this evening, she asked them to take stern actions against criminals without favour or fear.

The Prime Minister assured the officials that there would be no interference from her government, unlike the nine-year autocratic rule, to carry out their duties.

Begum Zia instructed them to recover all illegal arms for restoring peace and order in the society.

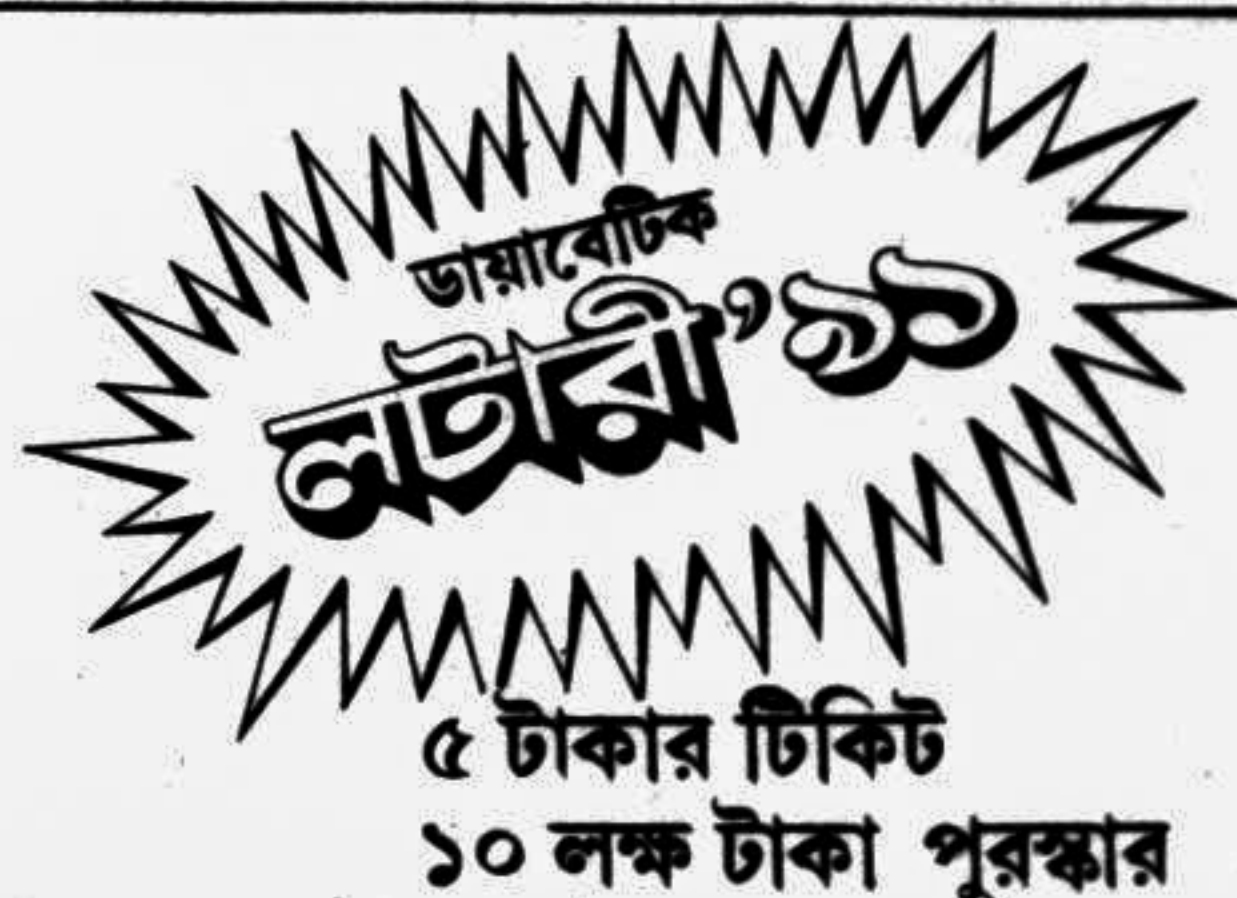
She also asked them to

take effective measures to curb smuggling. "Our industries will be closed adding to the unemployment problem and foreign goods will flood the market if we fail to check smuggling", she added.

Reviewing relief and rehabilitation work in the cyclone-affected areas, she thanked the officials for efficiently tackling the situation.

The on-going development programme of the district and other related matters also came up for discussion during the meeting.

Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed, State Minister for Forest and Environment Abdullah Al-Noman, Divisional Commissioner Omar Faruk and Deputy Commissioner AR Khan were present on the occasion.



দুঃস্থ ও আর্তমানবতার সেবায় এগিয়ে আসুন

বাংলাদেশ ডায়ালটিক সমিতির ৫ (পাঁচ) টাকা মূল্যের লটারী টিকিট কিনে এক বা একাধিক মূল্যবান পুরস্কার লাভ করুন।

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Advertisement for Reliance Insurance. Text: Reliance is not just a Name. You can come and see for yourself. Includes a large graphic of the letter 'R'.

Advertisement for Reliance Insurance Limited. Text: Reliance has proved that it is not just another Insurance Company. Includes the Reliance logo and contact information: BSB BUILDING, 8 RAJUK AVENUE, DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH. Phone: PABX - 240105-6, 235080. Telex: 671186 RIL BJ.

Advertisement for BRAC Production Manager. Text: BRAC is seeking a Production Manager for the Shrimp Processing Project in Daudkandi. Includes qualifications and application details. BRAC logo at the bottom.