

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Eating Out at 3 in the Morning

By A B Zeb

It was one of those nights when we wanted to get a bite of something at 2:00 a.m. Lo and behold we, despite endless efforts, were unable to locate a place in town open at that hour to answer our cravings. Considering Dhaka as a developing city we felt that it lacked one aspect that someone should have noticed. It was pointless to squabble over the whole thing as our tummies began to make noises that sounded like war cries from some unknown, primitive African tribe. We decided to try our culinary expertise (not much) and had a 'burnt finger', wet floors, messy plates and empty egg shells with sticky egg white and bread crumbs scattered about. It was very ridiculous. Disappointed, we just drank a glass of milk and went to bed.



Sonargaon's Cafe Bazar

Then about a week later a friend told me of a place open 24 hours and in this city. "Incredible", said I. Won't believe it till I see it, I said to myself. Sure enough at 3:00 am though sleepy and tired yet very excited, we came to the Sonargaon Hotel. The lobby was not as busy as it usually is but a smiling face

with all the warmth appeared out of the blue to greet us 'Good Morning'. We walked our way towards the Cafe Bazar and sure enough there were people sitting around sipping coffee and chatting away. The soft music played over the sound system and the waiter greeted and seated us. The smile always there, I took a moment to look around and found a few other late night munchers, like myself.

The club sandwiches arrived and we spent little time to devour it. Since there were a bunch of us the coffee tasted better than ever before. We found ourselves in the midst of a new experience — late night get together in Dhaka. Being a person who is hard to please I found the waiters to be very attentive, friendly, warm and becoming. The service was just as good as the Sonargaon boasts about.

Though the aircondition was on full blast it was set just right when brought to the waiters attention. The best part was that nobody came to say — "Sir we're closing now". Yep, it certainly is a change and Dhaka needed it while Sonargaon noticed it.

### Press Club lecture series

## Strong political will needed for healthy market economy

A very strong political will and clear political commitment, accompanied by concrete steps on the part of the government can along usher in a healthy market economy, reports BSS.

This was stated by M Morshed Khan, Chairman of Arab Bangladesh Bank Limited in his paper on "Market economy and the private sector in Bangladesh," presented on the occasion of the Jatiya Press Club Lecture, Series, '91 in Dhaka at the club premises Friday.

Morshed Khan said a real one-stop service for potential investors should be set up on war footing for speedy industrialisation in Bangladesh. Editor of the Sangbad Ahmadul Kabir, City Editor of the Bangladesh Times M R Rousseau, CPB leader Ajoy Roy, civil servants Toufiq Elahi Chowdhury and Shah Abdul Hannan, President of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association Mosharraf Hossain and Country Director of United Nations Industrial Development Organisation G L Narasimhan took part in the discussion.

The lecture was presided over by journalist Ziaul Huq. President of the Press Club Mozammel Huq gave the speech of welcome while Club Joint Secretary Shaikat Rashid also spoke. Morshed Khan said, "In our country today the private sector is as underdeveloped as the entire economy". Capital is scarce and the stock exchange is weak and underdeveloped, he said.

Khan said the present policy of transferring sick public sector industrial units to private sector only transfer sickness. It does not assist the growth and development either of market economy or the private sector, he said. He stressed the need for creating an environment of hope, confidence and security in the economy. He also said the press can play a vital role in furthering the cause of the nascent private sector in Bangladesh by giving its achievement and successes the favourable projection it rightfully deserves. Ahmadul Kabir called upon the new democratic government to fix up the economic objective of the country. Care

must be taken to determine which sectors should be kept private and which to remain with the public sector, he said. Kabir underlined the importance of boosting agricultural production, setting up more small and medium scale industries and import of technology for a strong economy. Rousseau said a potential private sector, particularly an industrial sector, was necessary for a country's development. He urged the government to attract potential entrepreneurs to invest in the industries. Toufiq Elahi said the government is taking reform measures to remove anomalies in the financial market for migrating to free economy. "There must be a free entry and exit in the market", he said. Shah Abdul Hannan suggested stable political climate, improvement of law and order and consensus on labourer and employer relationship for the growth of private sector and free economy. He held "management problem" responsible for the sickness of transferred industries.

## Plea to help flourish talent of children

State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan Friday urged the people, particularly the well-to-do section of the society to extend their allout cooperation and help for the welfare of distressed, helpless and disabled children, reports BSS.

He was distributing prizes among the winner of a children art competition arranged by Bangladesh Shishu Kalyan Parishad in observance of the Universal Children's Day '91 here. President of the Parishad Alhaj Nazir Hossain was in the chair. The State Minister said it was our duty and responsibility to help flourish the talent of the children. He said Bangladesh Shishu Academy and many other children organisations were established with personal initiative of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

## Relief distributed among diarrhoea affected people

State Minister for Land Mohammad Kabir Hossain Friday visited the diarrhoea-affected areas of Nohali and Alambiditor unions of Gangachara upazila in Rangpur district, reports UNB. He went round the local medical centres to see for himself the condition of the people admitted there and also distributed relief materials among the diarrhoea affected people of the two unions.

## HERE and THERE

### Lekhika Sangha

A meeting of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh Lekhika Sangha was held in Dhaka recently. Khaleda Salahuddin, President of the Sangha, presided over the function. Discussions were held on the preparatory measures of the founding anniversary programme of the Lekhika Sangha in the meeting.

A lively literary session followed. Poems were recited by Selma Khaleq, Hamida Rahman and Anamika Haq Lily. Self-composed poems were read out by Khaleda Salahuddin, Momtaz Jahan Karim, Momtaz Begum, Meena Azia, Sayeeda Zaman, Dilara Mebah and Nasreen Nayeem. A short story was read out by Jharna Das Purakayastha.

### Udayan Bidyalaya Bhaban opens

The newly constructed five-storey building of Udayan Bidyalaya was inaugurated Friday morning. Shaif Chowdhury, Chairman of Udayan Bidyalaya Management Committee opened the building in presence of students and guardians at 10.30 am.

The construction work of the building was completed by Shahidullah Associates Ltd, a private construction company. Shyamoli Nasreen Chowdhury, Headmistress of Udayan Bidyalaya was present among others at the inaugural ceremony. The programme was conducted by Adlin Malakar, senior teacher of the school.

### Democratic League meeting

The President of the Democratic League, Oli Ahad at a meeting of its party workers on Friday said terrorism in the campus is being instigated by the leaders of a few political parties. He said it is not difficult to check terrorism if the government is sincere. Oli Ahad said the government has failed to take any programme for the welfare of the common people.

### Training course concludes

A training course organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad concluded on Friday at the Business and Professional Women's Club Auditorium. The course was divided into two sessions. A discussion on the 'socio-economic evolution and the women' and 'national planning and the women' was held in the first session. Ayesha Khanam and Prof Khaleda Salahuddin took part in the discussion. In the second session discussions on democratic social system and the women and the history of world women's movement were held. Hena Das and Maleka Begum were the discussants in the second session.

### Service quota for blind youths demanded

Bangladesh Council for Realising Rights of the Blind Friday put forward a 16-point demand, including reservation of five per cent quota in all services for the handicapped, reports UNB. Council President Shah Alam and General Secretary Ershad Ali voiced the demands at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon.

The demands also include raising the age limit to 35 years for the handicapped, employing 50 blind youths on emergency basis, setting up four adult technical training centres in four divisions and five secondary and 10 primary schools for the blind, establishment of a separate directorate and welfare trust for the handicapped and housing facilities for them. The Council leaders urged the government to look into the problems of the blind with sympathy and resolving them at the earliest.

### Islami Chhatra Majlis body

The Demra North Thana Committee of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Majlis was formed on October 8.

The newly elected President and General Secretary of the wing are Lutfar Rahman Iqbal and Kazi Abu Ahmed.

### Muslim League

The President of the Muslim League, Md Ayenuddin in a statement on Friday said the people of Rajshahi and other districts in the northern region are passing their days without food.

He demanded immediate launching of government relief operation in the affected areas.

### Amra Bangali

"Amra Bangali," a cultural organisation in a meeting on Friday urged the educated persons to take part in the movement to uphold the culture of the country.

The meeting of the organisation was presided over by Belayet Hossain Sikdar.

### Jamaat

The Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami, Maulana Matiuur Rahman Nizami in a statement on Wednesday expressed his concern at the grave diarrhoea situation in the northern region of the country.

He termed the government efforts to fight diarrhoea inadequate. Jamaat leader urged the government to take steps to check diarrhoea immediately.

### Scholarship awarded

Bhola District Sramik Karmachari Welfare Association on Friday awarded scholarships to 35 students of workers of Bhola district studying in Dhaka.

The scholarship scheme was financed by Bhola Association. Presided over by the President of the Welfare Association, Mohammad Hussain the function was also attended by Water Development and Flood Control State Minister, Mosharaf Hossain Shahjahan.

### Garment workers rally

National Garments Workers Federation on Friday held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city demanding the minimum wage of Taka 1200, implementation of labour and factory laws and their eight-point demand. They alleged the owners of the garment factories do not abide by the labour laws.

### Compensation demanded

The President and General Secretary of Garment's Workers Employees Union, Badruddoza Nizam and Tawhidur Rahman in a statement on Friday demanded compensation for the death of a garment worker, Md Kamal of Peoples Garments at Mirpur Section 7.

### DUCSU leaders greet Biswas

The leaders of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) and the central committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Friday felicitated President Abdur Rahman Biswas on his assumption of the office of the head of state, reports BSS.

### TV Saturday

5:00 Opening announcement, Al Quran Programme Summary  
5:15 Reading from the Tripitak  
5:20 News in Bangla  
5:30 Sports world  
5:55 Documentary Film: A Day in the Life of Women  
6:30 Mass education programme  
7:05 Banshari: Folk songs  
8:00 News in Bangla  
8:30 Chenasur: Songs Programme  
9:00 Anirban: Magazine Programme  
10:00 News in English  
10:30 Drama series: Dallas  
11:30 Khabar/The News  
11:45 Closing

## Weather

### Day temperature may rise

Rain or thundershower is likely at one or two places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Faridpur, Dhaka and Pabna during the next 24 hours ending 6 pm Saturday, reports UNB. Met office said weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius. On Friday, Madaripur experienced the highest 17 mm rainfall. Chuadanga had 4 mm, Jessore, Ishwardi and Rajshahi 2 each and Patuakhali and Khulna 1 mm shower. Friday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 32.5 degree Celsius and the minimum 26 degrees. Jessore recorded the highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius while Peni the lowest 22.2 degrees. Percentage of humidity was 78 in the morning and 85 in the evening. Sun sets today (Saturday) at 5-36 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5-35 am.

## Anti-social activists won't be spared: Home Minister

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury Friday appealed to the people to cooperate with the government in maintaining law and order in the society, reports BSS.

Addressing a huge public meeting at Narayanganj, the Home Minister reiterated the BNP government's determination to deal with the anti-social and anti-people activities like corruptions with an iron hand. He said peace and stability were the prerequisite for any development in the society. If we fail to maintain law and order in the society, all of our efforts for improving the condition of the common people would be in vain, he said.

Presided over by Advocate Abdul Khaleque, MP, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Ms Shamsunnahar Khwaja Ahsanullah, MP, and local BNP leaders. Turning to the opposition

parties, the Home Minister said that under the multi-party democratic system, the opposition parties had a definite role in putting in their sincere efforts to the development works being under taken by the government.

In this connection, the Home Minister urged the opposition parties to cooperate with the government in maintaining peace and discipline in the country. Referring to the disturbance in educational institutions, the Home Minister urged the students to devote themselves to their studies for shouldering the future responsibility of the country.

Sounding a note of warning, Chowdhury said the BNP government, elected by the people, would not spare anybody indulging in anti-social and anti-people activities. The law would take its own course, he added.

Earlier, the Home Minister visited Narayanganj Police Line and held a meeting with the members of the law enforcing agencies.

Addressing the police personnel, the Home Minister directed them to take stern measures against the anti-social elements irrespective of party affiliations.

### Shehabuddin made envoy to France

The government has decided to appoint K M Shehabuddin, at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to the State of Kuwait, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of France, reports BSS. He joined foreign service in 1966 and served in various capacities in India, Nepal, France, Lebanon and Great Britain.

## VACANCY Management Information System

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A children painting competition was held at Shishu Kalyan Parishad in observance of the Universal Children's Day on Friday. — Star photo