

Dhaka Day by Day

Eating Our Guests for Dinner

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

We are known for our poverty, our floods and our unstable governments. But we are also known for our resilience — and our hospitality.

Says an enthusiastic American I met the other day, "You guys sure know how to make people feel at home."



Guest birds displayed for sale.—Star photo

you already know. These birds are being hunted down everyday and slaughtered to be served at the dinner tables of a few self-indulgent hedonists...

Now one must ask the inevitable — who is to blame? Is it the hunters and sellers of these birds? But can it not be argued that they are just people struggling to make a living?

people who are not only without a conscience but who conveniently forget that they create the market. The prices they are willing to pay makes this a very attractive business.

Investigation on against ex-T&T Chairman : Minister Maksud Ali tapped phones of Khaleda, Hasina : Nasim

A total of 27 officials and 326 employees of the Telegraph and Telephone Board have been dismissed and forced into retirement under different measures during the period from 1980 to January 1991...

German MPs due tomorrow

A six-member German Parliamentary delegation led by Dr Fritz Hopmeier, Deputy Speaker of the State Legislature of Baden-Wuerttemberg, will arrive in Dhaka on Tuesday on a 3-day visit to Bangladesh...

'shame-shame' as the Minister replied to the question on Maksud Ali Khan.

Taking the floor Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim said Khan played a key role in tapping the telephones of opposition leaders...

Obituary

Alhaj Abdul Halim of Nabinagar Upazila, Comilla died of old age complications on Saturday at the Holy Family Hospital. He was 85.

Alhaj Halim was a retired Asst Registrar of Cooperatives. He left behind his wife, six sons, three daughters and a number of grand children.

He was buried at Azampur Graveyard. Begum Zohra Hasan, wife of retired Justice Khandker Mohammad Hasan, died in Dhaka Saturday at her Dhanmondi residence, reports BSS.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Labour and Manpower Section - 13

NOTICE Sub: Candidature invitation for Commercially Important Person (CIP-Manpower), Election 1992

Applications in prescribed form are invited from intending Managing Director/Managing Partner/Proprietor of relevant firms for CIP (Manpower) Election 1992.

Md. Kamal Reza Senior Assistant Secretary Room No. 420, Building No. 7 Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

DDP/C: 12201-24/10 C-783

Benjedid greets Biswas

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid has felicitated Abdur Rahman Biswas on his election as the President of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

In a message Benjedid said, he was looking forward to work with Bangladesh President in developing the relations and cooperation between the two countries and well-being of the Islamic Ummah.

Benjedid wished Biswas good health and progress and prosperity of Bangladesh.

'High-tech based education needed for uplift'

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Sunday underscored the need for introducing modern technology with a view to promoting national development, reports BSS.

High-tech based education should be introduced to keep pace with other advanced countries, he said while talking to a three-member delegation of University Grants Commission (UGC) led by its Chairman Prof Shamsul Haq called on him at Bangabhaban.

President Biswas said Bangladesh has a vast man power resources which, he added, should be used for achieving national progress.

President Biswas said responsible behaviour of all shades of opinion was an important factor to continue with democratic process.

He said the education planning of the country should be aimed at productive purposes.

The delegation also discussed with the President various matters of the UGC.

The other members of the delegation were Prof Muhammad Ali and Prof Mosharraf Hossain.

HERE and THERE

Workshop on VAT

The Rotaract Club of Mahanagar North West held a workshop on Value Added Tax (VAT) system for the Rotaracts of RI Dist-3280.

Nagarik Adhikar Parishad

Bangladesh Nagarik Adhikar Parishad on Sunday slated the bill presented in the Jatiya Sangsad recently for a pay hike of the ministers and members of parliament...

JSD (Rob)

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) on Sunday reiterated its determination to resist the anti-people activities of the present government.

Jubo Dal founding day observed

The thirteenth founding anniversary of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal was observed Sunday in a befitting manner.

DCC Mayor

The Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mirza Abbas MP while inaugurating the re-excavation programme of Titas Cannel at Jatrabari Sunday said water stagnancy created recently at various parts of the city...

Weather

Dry weather likely

Met office forecast on Sunday that light rain or thundershower is likely at one or two places over the regions of Chittagong, Noakhali, Comilla, Barisal, Patuakhali, Khulna and Faridpur.

Weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Met office said adding that the temperature will remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

Table with 4 columns: Cities/Towns, Temperature in degree Celsius, Humidity in percentage, and 9 am, 6 pm. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, Jessore, Dinajpur, Bogra, Barisal, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, Rangpur.

Sun sets in Dhaka tomorrow (Monday) at 5-23 pm and rises Tuesday at 6-03 am.



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal workers brought out a procession on the campus with bodies of two fellow activists, killed in armed clash Sunday. Story on page 1

Plea to declare flood-hit areas as 'famine zone'

Bangladesh Garib Dal has called the government for declaring the country's northern flood-hit region as "famine zone" and demanded adequate supply of relief materials there, reports UNB.

The call was made at a party meeting here Friday.

The meeting, chaired by Sheikh Zainul Abidin, called on the government to formulate a master plan to create employment opportunities for youths across the country, said a press release.

It expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the country, price-hike of essentials and the unemployment problem.

Bangladesh losing elevation : US expert

Coastal embankment without drainage to cause disaster

A US engineering specialist on flooding in Bangladesh has called upon the experts worldwide to come forward with innovative ways to manage the flood problem in the country, according to a message received in Dhaka, reports BSS.

He expressed his firm belief that the problem can be managed, according to a USIS press release.

Dr Peter Rogers, a Professor of Environmental Engineering at Harvard University while participating in the worldnet dialogue satellite Television discussion with experts in Dhaka, on October 23, suggested a number of measures to tackle the problem of frequent and devastating flooding in Bangladesh.

He supported the Bangladesh government policy to provide low embankments against average types of flooding in the coastal areas. "It is a relatively good one because it couples cyclone protection shelter areas with an early warning system," he said.

Dr Rogers stressed the need for a lowered agricultural population density along the most frequently flooded coastal areas of Bangladesh.

The US expert said a strategy including the Bangladesh government measures already in place, "coupled with pushing very hard in intensification in agriculture elsewhere, which will reduce some of the population pressures and make those problems less serious" was needed.

Issue that is not being adequately addressed, and I would think that the people best capable of addressing this would in fact be the Bangladeshi scientists and engineers, people who have their own field laboratory right in front of their eyes," Rogers said.

The US expert further said "clearly, if the whole of Bangladesh was covered with embankments, it would be a different country. It would be a country that would be quite dangerous to live in because one would then always be faced with catastrophic failure of embankments, as opposed to the normal flow or rise of flood waters."

Rogers said that most people do not realize that the coastal embankment project in Bangladesh is "the largest engineering project in the

world...bigger than the Great Wall of China, in terms of the amount of dirt that was moved."

But, he said, it has failings: "If you build flood control works and do not provide drainage, you run into trouble." He said that Bangladesh has very high amounts of rainfall, and that the huge pumping stations that would be required to keep the land dry are not present.

"In a high-flood situation, gravity drainage will not work," the expert said, adding that "the rivers are indeed, higher than the surrounding land." Asked about the possible threat to Bangladesh from seas rising as a result of the "Greenhouse effect" caused by pollution from developed countries, Rogers replied that would be "the least" of Bangladesh's worries.

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