

Dhaka Day by Day

Fresh Fish at Your Doorsteps

by Fayza Haq

It is said that people live longer in China and Japan because of their diet of fish. Even in the west today, the figure and health conscious individuals go in for steamed and baked fish as their main meal. In Dhaka there is plenty of fish, but if guests are to be entertained, there is bound to be chicken and mutton or beef rather than fish preparations. There are very few restaurants that specially cater for fish meals.

However, with the recent rise of prices of vegetables the Dhaka housewives say they are buying more fish. The fish vendors, on the other hand, feel otherwise. Anwar, a sixteen year-old fish-seller who frequents Dhanmandi, Jhikatola and the Science Laboratory complains that his regular customers are buying less fish than before as the price of fish too has gone up along with other commodities.

When I met Anwar with his basket of fish, covered with nondescript polythene paper and peppered with greenflies, he was selling small shrimps and 'puti mach'. However, on other days, he does sell 'pangash', 'rof shing' and 'koi'. He was jittery and nervous about waiting and chatting with me as he was afraid that his fish would get spoilt and other fish vendors would go to his boat and win over his customers. 'I have no way of preserving my commodity. When they are near spoiling and I have not sold them till the end of the day, I get rid of them at reduced and half price. I have to do a lot of wheeling and bargaining,' he comments about his work.

He continues, 'The ladies I come across are usually happy to deal with me. They buy the most on weekends. It saves them from sending a servant to the market. They can pick and choose at leisure. At places like New Market there is a competition of buyers — each one quoting a higher price. Here they have only to contend with me.'

Anwar, who comes from a village in Barisal, has been a vendor for four years. He has dealt with peanuts and vegetables. He did not find those lucrative business. Today when he takes a launch for Tk 100 to go to see his widowed and ailing mother and family, he has Tk 3000 tucked under his belt every three months. He is the head of his family and proud of it. He has two younger brothers, and a sister to be married off.

Although he and another teenaged brother of his are working seven days a week at selling fish, they barely managed to get their other sister married. There was the usual demand for dowry. There was the prestige of the family

and the future happiness of our sister. You find this in every home, even among the well-to-do and those who live in the cities. This problem of giving big dowries and having lavish feasts is a scourge of our lives. If the promises of the dowry are not kept, the girl suffers. You must have heard of cases where the girl is tortured by the in-laws. We don't want that to happen to our sister', he narrates.

That is not the end of the hassles. They have yet another sister to be married. Despite their illness, accidents and not having a proper guardian in the family, they must save towards the big occasion. There are the expenditures on the two Eids too.

'Added to that our mother has a frail health. After she lost our father and two sisters, she pines for them and fails to sleep or eat properly. She cannot manage the household chores and we cannot afford a hired hand,' he informs me.

Anwar tries his level best to make a living. Twice he was bitten by dogs at the houses he visits and his doctor's bills were more than he could handle. He has to deal with pick-pockets too. Once he lost Tk 700 while selling his wares in Rai Bazaar and Karwan Bazaar.

Walking through the scorching heat and pouring rain most of the year he gets the usual flu and diarrhoea attacks that assail thousands in the city.

He cannot expect to be mollycoddled during his poor health. He lives in a mess with 15 others at Rai Bazaar and eats at his sister's who lives in the vicinity. He pays Tk 50 a month at the mess and gives a small allowance of Tk 25 a month to his sister.

Anwar does not lament his fate but tries to make the best of his teenaged years by changing into fresh clothes in the evening and having tea and biscuits with his friends around Sangsad Bhaban lawns. Often he takes in a movie. He is saving towards a one-band radio. He does not believe in banks. He puts his savings with a friendly shopkeeper and collects it when he goes for his visits to his village.

His holidays at his mother are not that fancy free. He, being the head of the family, sows the rice seeds and does the harvesting with hired help. But he pushes on with life, and talks about the time when he will have and entire fish stall of his own at Karwan Bazaar or New Market, with confident optimistic gestures. He naturally does a lot of fishing to enrich the family platter, when he is home. This toiling teenager is certainly an asset to his family.



Fisherman by A A Sultan.

Bangladesh an abode of religious peace: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka Friday that Bangladesh was an abode of religious peace and harmony, reports BSS.

Begum Zia was talking to the leaders of the reconstituted Convening Committee of Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal who called on her at her Sugandha office. The leaders were headed by Al-Haj Maulana S M Ruhul Amin.

State Minister For Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan was present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister said Islam was a religion of peace. She called upon the enlightened people of the society to establish the great tenants of Islam in all spheres of national life shunning religious fanaticism.

She called upon the Ulema of the society to involve themselves in the development activities of the present government to improve the condition of the teeming millions.

BCS psychological test Nov 14

The psychological test (written) of the candidates who passed the written test of BCS examination 1990-91 will be held on November 14 (Thursday) at Dhaka College in two batches, reports BSS.

The test of the first batch will start at 9 am and of the second batch at 2 pm, an official handout said Friday.

The admit cards of the candidates have already been sent to the candidates by post. Candidates who will not receive their cards have been requested to contact the Public Service Commission secretariat head office in Dhaka from November 10 to 12 during the office time.

Saudi Civil Defence team assures cooperation

The visiting 5-member Saudi Civil Defence delegation led by Maj Gen Saad Bin Mohd Al-Mufreh called on the Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman at the latter's residence Friday morning, reports BSS.

The Foreign Minister told the delegation which arrived in Dhaka on October 30, that such type of visit at different levels would strengthen the relations between the two countries and open up new area of cooperation. He hoped that the cordial relations between the two brotherly Muslim countries would be strengthened in the coming days.

The Saudi Civil Defence delegation leader assured Bangladesh of all possible cooperation to cement relations between the two countries.

Official sources said that the purpose of the Saudi delegation's visit was to expand cooperation between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia and also to explore the possibilities of exchange of experts in the fields of natural calamities such as cyclone and flood and major accidents.

The delegation left for home Friday afternoon.

Two killed in road mishaps

Two pedestrians were killed when Jatrabari-bound speeding truck hit them on the road near the Jurain railway Friday morning.

Shiraj (15) died on the spot while Shahidul Islam (30) succumbed to injuries after being admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The body of Shiraj was sent to Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

A case was registered with Demra Police, the truck (Bogra-Ta-1516) was seized by police. However, the driver managed to flee from the scene of the accident.

Reexcavation of 21 drainage canals in Dhaka city begins next month

The Water and Sewerage Authority of the capital (WASA) will begin the reexcavation work of 21 drainage canals next month to solve the water logging problem of the city.

Talking to BSS Dhaka WASA Chairman Nurul Islam said that the project would be completed in three years at a cost of Taka 158 crore. Asian Development Bank would provide Taka 100 crore for the project and the rest would be provided by the government, he said.

Islam said the four major canals that would be reexcavated under the project, are

Mahakhali canal, Segun Bagicha canal, Begunbari canal and Paribagh canal.

Mahakhali canal originates from old airport and falls to Rampura Jheel passing through Mohakhali Bus Stand and Tongi Diversion Road.

ing from elephant road goes through Paribagh and links up with Begunbari canal near Sonargaon Hotel.

The canals would be 30 to 90 feet in width gradually expanding towards their exits. To avoid destruction of major establishments the direction of the canals would be curved at some places and in some cases, flow underground.

The inter connected canals would work as a network for the passage of rain water which will meet the river Buriganga, Balu and Turag at 15 exit points including three pump stations.

A high powered 19-member committee with the Dhaka City Mayor Mirza Abbas as its Chairman has been formed to materialise the project. Other members of the committee are Secretaries of different ministries and departmental heads.

About 30 years ago at least 50 natural canals existed in the city, through which rain water could find its passage towards the rivers. Moreover, the low lying areas like Klyanpur and Adabar remain as reservoirs. But over the years "unplanned and imprudent" construction of houses and roads and unauthorised formation of slums have filled these canals and reservoirs without any provision for the passage of rain water. Besides, different government organisations such as the City Corporation, Rajuk, PWD, Cantonment authorities and Roads and Highway Department have constructed their own water passage systems with different specifications. Such lack of coordination

has made the whole drainage system inner-directed instead of desired outward direction of flow of the system, thus frequently obstructing the normal passage of water causing overflow.

Non-cleaning of surface drains, leakage and siltation of the drains, frequent road cutting by different departments, haphazard solid waste disposal and congested habitation are the other reasons that cause water logging in the city.

For all these Dhaka City become flooded in a two-hour heavy rain fall which takes a minimum of 12 hours for draining out.

'Contradictory attitude of two big parties hampering progress'

National Professor M Shamsul Huq Friday called for cooperation of political leaders to make the society free from the menace of terrorism, reports UNB.

"The key to root out terrorism lies with the combined efforts and sincerity of the two big political parties," he said referring to the rampant campus violence across the country.

Prof Huq was addressing the inaugural session of the first general conference of Rajshahi University Economics Department Alumni Association in Dhaka in the evening.

Chaired by Dr. M. A. Jall, the conference at the Planning and Development Academy auditorium, was also addressed by Prof. Md. Tozammel Huq, the first departmental head.

Prof Huq said the existing ideological conflict and contradictory attitude are hampering the national progress.

Conflict of interests has turned into a devastating inter-conflict in Bangladesh, he said adding that absence of creative thinking, power struggle and

dominance of party or individual interest had led to the ruination of societies in the past.

The national Professor emphasised on greater role of human resource development in the national planning for overall economic uplift of the country.

Prof ATM Jahurul Huq of Dhaka University and Jinal Abedeen of Bangladesh Institute of Business Management presented papers at the conference.

Planning Commission Joint Chief Amir Ali Khan Majlish, Bangladesh Bank Executive Director Dr. Sohrabuddin and Chief Economist of Roads and Highways Department Haroon-or Rashid were among the participants in the discussion on the papers.

The programme was followed by a cultural function.

Young girl commits suicide

By Staff Correspondent

A young girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan rod early Friday morning.

Majeda Khatun (20), daughter of Ali Mian, hanged herself at their rented residence in Kamrangchaur at around 3 am, police said.

An unnatural death (UD) case was registered with Lalbagh Police and the body was sent to DMCH for post mortem examination.

Lawyers hail suspension of BCL activities on DU campus

By Staff Correspondent

Thirty-nine lawyers of Dhaka Bar Association and 14 socio-cultural organisations in two separate statements on Friday hailed the decision of Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina for suspending the activities of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the Dhaka University campus.

The lawyers said in a statement that the academic atmosphere has collapsed due to the terrorist activities of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). It said the lawyers expected that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia would also take a similar action against JCD.

They demanded the arrest of Ilias, Raton and others accused in the killing of Mizan, a BCL leader.

The signatories to the statement include, Advocate Shahera Khatun, Advocate Strajul Islam Khan, Advocate Altaf Hossain and others.

In another statement, 14 organisations demanded the suspension of the activities of JCD immediately.

Nezam-e-Islam Party meeting today

By Staff Correspondent

A meeting of the preparatory committee of Nezam-e-Islam Party national council, 1992 will be held today (Saturday) after Aar prayers at its city office at 119/4 Fakirapool.

Weather

Night temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid till 6 pm on Saturday says rain or thundershower is likely at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Khulna division. The weather is likely to remain dry over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions. Night temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over the country. The lowest temperature recorded on Friday was 16 degree Celsius at Mymensingh.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Rainfall activity likely to decrease. Extended outlook for another five days: One spell of rainfall activity likely to occur.

The temperature and humidity of some cities and towns on Friday were:

Cities/Towns	temperature		humidity	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.2	22	88	80
Chittagong	28	22.4	87	85
Khulna	30.5	22	88	87
Rajshahi	31.2	18.5	77	83
Rangpur	30.5	19.1	80	83
Jessore	31.6	21	x	x
Comilla	28.5	21.2	91	88
Sylhet	28.6	20	82	82

Steps to be taken to improve radio, TV programmes

Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Friday, underscored the need for expansion and development of the country's electronic media, reports BSS.

He said along with improving the quality of programmes steps would be taken for using updated technology for our radio and television network so that those could function at par with any advance system of the other countries of the world.

The minister was addressing the biennial conference and installation ceremony of the welfare association of the BCS (Information) engineering cadre at the Broadcasting House Auditorium in Dhaka.

Huda assured that services of the local expertise and technocrats would be fully utilised for the development of the electronic media.

Describing Radio Bangladesh as an important institution the minister referred to the role played by the radio at the various stages of the nation's history.

In this connection, Huda recalled that announcement regarding the War of Liberation by Shaheed President Ziaur

Rahman on March 26, 1971 from Kalurghat Transmission Centre had inspired the whole nation to wage the struggle for liberating the country.

Information Secretary Nooruddin Al Masud, Director General of Radio Bangladesh Dr Shahadat Hussain, Chief Engineer of Radio Bangladesh Md Shanuzzaman Chowdhury, and Md Nurul Huq and A M Mohiuddin President and General Secretary respectively of the Welfare Association also addressed the function.

The Information Minister underlined the need for regular training both at home and abroad for the members of the BCS (Information) engineering cadre to raise their professional skill and efficiency.

Huda advised them to discharge their duties with devotion and dedication and thereby uphold the glorious tradition of the institution.

He said the present BNP government being a popularly elected one would gradually take steps to remove the grievances of the various service cadres.

Information Secretary Nooruddin Al Masud said

through introducing advanced technology the country would soon attain a breakthrough in the electronic media.

Director General of Radio Bangladesh Dr Shahadat Hussain called for directing the activities of the Association with the objective of raising the professional skill of its members.

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
6.00	Documentary Film Mati-O-Manush
6.30	Banshari: folk songs
7.05	News in Bangla
8.00	Special programme on Prime Minister's visit to Sarajevo
8.30	Sangeet Probaho
9.20	News in English
10.00	Drama series: Dallas
10.30	Khabar/The News
11.30	Close down
11.45	



Bangladesh Social Welfare workers rendering songs in front of the National Press Club Friday in observance of World Youth Day. — Star photo

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce this new column where individuals and organisations can insert, at nominal charges, Birthday Greetings, Anniversaries, Congratulatory Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, In Memorium, etc.

For bookings/details, please contact:

Advertisement Manager
Phone: 246023-4, 863035

Uttara Bank Limited Branch Shifting

Our Haragach Branch has been shifted to Sarai Bazar, Plot No-3087 Rangpur from Sarai Bazar, Plot No-801 Rangpur today (2.11.91)

Our valued clients and well wishers are requested to contact and transact at the new premises.

SOME THINGS LAST FOREVER... LIKE CARING

Superior quality imported lubricated condoms for those who care for the health of their partners

CAREX for caring couples

Electronically tested thin condoms for the natural feel

Notice of RHD Inviting Tenders

- Tender Notice No. : 8 of 1991-92 Jessore Road Division.
- Name of work : Reconstruction of pavement at different K. Metres of different Upazila Roads under Jessore Road Division during 1991-92 (As per group list).
- Name of offices of availability of tender documents : Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Jessore/Khulna/Kushtia/Planning and Programming, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Preliminary Engineering Divn, Boyra, Khulna/All Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD) under RHD Jessore Road Division.
- Name of offices to receive tender bids. : Additional Chief Engineer, RHD Khulna Zone, Boyra, Khulna/Superintending Engineer (RHD) Road Circle, Jessore/Executive Engineer (RHD) Road Division Jessore/Khulna/Kushtia/Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Division, Jhenaidah.
- Last date and time for receiving tender : Up to 12-30 P.M. on 10.11.91 Eng/25.7.98 Bang.
- Date and time for opening of tender : At 11.00 A.M. on 12.11.91 Eng/27.7.98 Bang. in the office chamber of Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Jessore.
- Group and work list :

Group No	Name of Road	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed for completion of work	Eligibility of contractor
1	Narail-Fultala Road	Tk.6,04,840/=	Tk.1,2097/=	45 days	'A' to 'D' class under general category of RHD
2	Koatchandpur to Talshar Bazar up to Bridge	Tk.11,97,642/=	Tk.2,3953/=	60 "	-d-
3	Arpana-Shaikha Road.	Tk.21,96,089/=	Tk.4,3922/=	75 "	'A' to 'C' class under general category of RHD
4	Shailokupa-Khamerpara Road.	Tk.17,02,648/=	Tk.3,4053/=	70 "	-d-
5	Jessore-Magura Road	Tk.34,69,680/=	Tk.6,9394/=	90 "	-d-

DFF(G) 12466-29/10
G-804

Md. Abdul Batian
Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Jessore