

Dhaka Day by Day

Earning by the Sweat of Their Young Brow

by A.S.M. Nurunnabi

The little load-carriers at many city bazars popularly known as 'mintis' are an omnipresent phenomenon which visitors to a bazar can never miss. Most of them are of tender age ranging from eight to fifteen years. The only tool of their trade is a big-sized basket, which often serves them as a cover from sun and rains.

load of purchases. Any insinuation of a light-hearted approach on this issue is against my grain, since behind it looms grim and poignant struggles for survival being waged by beings more expected to attend schools or play games than to shoulder the financial burden of their families at their tender



Tender-age 'mintis' ready to accost a customer: struggles for survival.

Their strategy to catch customers is diverse. While most of them keep a steady vigil at the entry points to a bazar, some of them take up positions at vantage niches a few paces ahead of the entry points. Whether you walk in, ride a rickshaw or move in a car, you are sure to accost them with their appeal-suffused visages. The more agile ones among them remain alert to sprint after cars or other motor-vehicles supposedly carrying bigger customers.

As there is a tide in the affairs of man, so also there is such a tide in their life. The high tide appears at the initial period of every month when liquidity position of buyers is comparatively satisfactory. Even at other times, their custom tends to pick up after office-hours when a majority of buyers at the bazars are ladies who cannot do without their services under compulsive circumstances. They, however, hit the jackpot only before any big festival, when the motley crowd of buyers are hard put to get helping hands to carry their

ages. Ismail, aged 12, works as a 'minti' in the Dhaka's New Market area. His younger brother Masum, aged 9, also follows the same occupation. Hailing from a remote village in Jessore district, they lost their father a few years ago, and came over to Dhaka with their mother in search of livelihood. The two youngsters earn about Tk. 50 to 60 together, half of which goes to meet their daytime food expenses. They hand over the balance of their hard-earned-income at night to their mother who works as a maid-servant in a nearby locality. Only at night they take their frugal meals with their mother in their miserable hovel. This story is perhaps typical of the background of all other creatures of their genre and casts a lurid light on a social phenomenon which has no name other than a heartless exploitation of child labour.

'Dhaka Past, Present and Future' to help evolve proper urban planning

Mayor of Dhaka City Mirza Abbas Saturday called upon the researchers and experts to contribute their mite for improving the state of urban life in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing as the chief guest at the publication ceremony of a book 'Dhaka Past, Present and Future' published by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, the Mayor underlined the need for carrying out more research on the urban life of Bangladesh.

The Mayor also inaugurated a one-day seminar on 'Urban research planning', jointly organised by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Centre for Urban Studies, Dhaka City Museum and Faculty of Architecture and Planning, BUET.

Chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof M Shamsul Huq was present on the occasion as the special guest.

President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh Dr A M

Sharifuddin presided over the function while its Secretary General Prof. Syed Anwar Hossain, Dr Sharif Uddin Ahmed, Prof. Nazrul Islam and Prof. Abu H Imamuddin spoke on the occasion. Mirza Abbas hoped that the seminar would not only highlight the problems of Dhaka City life and possible solutions but also the problems and prospects of urban life of Bangladesh as a whole.

Dwelling on the great heritage of the Dhaka city, its history and developments and its present and future possibilities, Mirza Abbas hoped that the book 'Dhaka Past, Present and Future' would help the politicians and administrators develop correct policies for proper planning of its future development.

Fifty eminent scholars and experts from home and abroad have contributed their research papers in the 680-page book.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof M Shamsul Huq urged the researchers to find out ways and means for solving the present difficulties of the urban centres taking into consideration the socio-economic perspective of the country.

The objectives of the seminar was to evaluate the researches on the various aspects of the urban life of Dhaka and other cities and towns of the country and to examine the prospects of applying the findings of such researches to improve the quality of urban life.

Six papers on 'urban poor: Low income settlement,' 'Power, politics and urban progress,' 'Role of architectural research in housing sector,' 'Conservation and preservation of historical buildings,' 'Municipal financing in Bangladesh' and 'Transport development' were presented in different sessions of the seminar.

What's on today...

Seminar on art exhibition

On the second day of the fifth biennial Asian Art Exhibition at the Shilpakala Academy, a seminar on 'country report' will be held today (Sunday) at 9 am.

Artists' representatives of 14 countries are expected to attend the seminar.

Garments sramik

Bangladesh Garments Sramik Federation has called a press conference today (Sunday) at 4 pm at the National Press Club to describe repression and exploitation on over five lakh workers of 850 export-oriented garments factories and more than one lakh workers of 400 local garment factories.

Death anniversary of Quadrat-e-Khuda

The 14th death anniversary of Dr. Mohammed Quadrat-e-Khuda, a noted scientist and educationist of the sub-continent will be observed today (Sunday) in a befitting manner.

Dr. Quadrat-e-Khuda was the founder Director of BCSIR Laboratories, Dhaka. In observance of the day Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) has arranged a discussion meeting on his life and works to be held at the auditorium of BCSIR today at 11-30 am.

Open discussion

The Coordinating Council of Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) has invited the concerned citizens to an open discussion on the recent incidents over the eviction attempt of prostitutes in the Tambazar and Tatipara brothels in Narayanganj at its office at 113 Siddeswari Circular Road, Dhaka-1217 at 4.00 pm today (Sunday). CCHRB will release its enquiry report and issue a statement after the discussion.

Rotary Club of Dhaka

Rotary District Governor Rotarian Jalal U Ahmed will pay his official visit today (Sunday) to Rotary Club of Dhaka Cosmopolitan. During his visit he will meet presidents, Secretary, Director and Committee Chairman of the club.

The Governor will also visit the Rotaract Clubs. On this occasion, club assembly will be held at 3-30 pm at the CIRDAP Auditorium 17, Topkhana Road in the city.

Suspension of BCL activities on DU campus hailed

By Staff Correspondent

15 intellectuals and 21 physicians in separate statements on Saturday hailed the Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina for her decision to suspend the activities of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in the Dhaka University campus.

They also expressed resentment for not taking a similar measure for Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

They demanded immediate suspension of JCD activities on the campus.

The physicians in a statement said the Prime Minister should also take actions against the armed cadre of JCD.

The intellectuals in their statement said expulsion of the terrorists from the JCD would upgrade the image of BNP.

The signatories to the statements includes Prof Ataur Rahman, Prof Fazlur Rahman, Dr Khorsheed Anwar, Dr Tofazzal Hossain, Prof MA Kader, Dr Tofazzal Karim, Dr Abu Zafar and others.

Discussion on Quadrat-e-Khuda today

In observance of the 14th death anniversary of the famous scientist and educationist of the sub-continent, Dr. M. Quadrat-e-Khuda a discussion titled 'Chotader Quadrat-e-Khuda' will be held today at 3 pm at the Science Museum Auditorium at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar here, reports BSS.

Jointly organised by the Science Museum and Science Service, a non-governmental voluntary organisation, the discussion will be presided over by the Joint Secretary of the Science and Technology Division, Mrs. Khodeza Azam.

Prof. Ali Asgar of Engineering University will be the main speaker at the discussion. Among others, Director of the Museum Dr. Mobarak Ali Akhand and daughter of Dr. Quadrat-e-Khuda and a Principal Scientific Officer of BCSIR, Hosnera Khan will take part in the discussions.

JU first year (Hons) classes begin

The first year classes of Jahangirnagar University began Saturday, reports BSS.

A total of 687 students have been admitted in 18 departments of the university from 18,041 applicants this year. The JU authority has decided to introduce new subject 'archaeology' first of its kind in any Bangladeshi university.

The authority has also decided to withdraw subsidiary subjects from honours courses. The students of honours classes will now take up an integrated course.

5 Chhatra Union leaders join JCD

Five leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) Jahangirnagar University Unit disconnected their relations with the organisation and joined Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) being inspired by the ideology of late president Ziaur Rahman, JCD sources said, reports BSS.

The activists and leaders are Publicity Secretary, Palash Chowdhury, Office Secretary, A.K.M. Shah Alam Biplob, committee member, Swab Ahmed and other two activists Jewel and Shawan.

Meanwhile, a BCU, JU Unit, press release Saturday said that they had expelled its three office-bearers for what they called 'anti organisation activities.'

Special prayer on Nov 7

The government has requested the management committees of mosques, temples, churches and other places of worship to organise special prayers on National Solidarity and Revolution Day on November 7, reports BSS.

The programmes for the day include special prayers and milad mahfils for the progress and prosperity of the nation in the mosques and special prayers in other places of worship, an official handout said.

TV Sunday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran programme summary
- 5.15 Reading from the Bible
- 5.20 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Reading and writing programme
- 6.00 Educational programme: Can you do it?
- 6.30 Sports programme
- 7.05 Tagore songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Probaha
- 9.00 Drama Series: Oshin
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Raag Rong
- 11.30 Khabar/the news
- 11.45 Close down

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid till 6 pm today (Sunday) says light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions. Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere.

Night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country. Meanwhile, the weather remained mainly dry over the country on Saturday.

The lowest temperature of 18.2 degree Celsius was reported from Mymensingh.

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

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5.19 pm and it rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6.07 am.

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

Cities / towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.6	22.2	77	66
Chittagong	29.5	22.4	85	81
Khulna	30.3	23.3	82	88
Rajshahi	32	18.5	77	X
Sylhet	30.5	20.5	88	76
Rangpur	31.4	19	X	80
Jessore	31	21.5	X	X



BCL rally in front of the National Press Club on Saturday protesting killing of Chhatra League leader Mizanur Rahman Mizan. — Star photo

80,000 cooperative societies fake

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury Saturday said stern actions would be taken against those who had misappropriated funds of different Cooperative Societies in the country, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a function organised in observance of the 20th National Cooperative Day, the Home Minister said the corrupt cooperative leaders should be punished to free the societies from such people. He directed the Registrar of Cooperative to submit list of such persons.

Chowdhury said cooperative was a good system for socio-economic development of the rural people and the urban poor, but 'louts and batpans' had damaged this movement.

He said under the directive of the Prime Minister, the government wanted to consider the cases of genuine weavers who could not repay their loans. But no application

was received so far as 95 per cent of the loan recipients were fake, he added.

He said the government wanted to improve the socio-economic condition of the rural people through cooperatives as it was one of the three systems of economic activities incorporated in the constitution. But during the last 30-40 years crores of Taka had been misappropriated by the corrupt cooperative leaders and fake societies.

Organised by Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union (BJSU), the function was also addressed by State Minister for Finance, Mujibur Rahman, Chairman of Bangladesh Cooperative Insurance, Salahuddin MP and Registrar of Cooperatives Mahfuzul Islam.

BJSU General Secretary M Shahidullah, Vice-President Hasan Ali Sarder, Chairman of Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Bank, Habibur Rahman Sarker,

Chairman of Jatiya Mahila Cooperative Society, Mrs Ashraf Mosharraf and Bangladesh Auto Rickshaw Samabaya Federation, Chairman Mokaddes Hossain, were the other speakers. BJSU Chairman Liaqat Ali presided over the function.

State Minister Mujibur Rahman said the dishonest cooperative leaders remained engaged in litigations against each other and failed to uphold the ideal of cooperatives to the people.

Referring to agricultural loans which were not sanctioned to the Cooperative Societies for the last 10 years, the State Minister said he would examine the case. He said many agricultural loans were misappropriated by the corrupt leaders without disbursing them and in some cases the realised loans were not deposited with the bank.

Salahuddin MP called upon the honest and sincere people to come forward to give leadership of cooperative movement.

Nasiruddin Birth Day Celebration Committee

A 64-member 'Mohammad Nasiruddin Birth Anniversary Celebration Committee' has been formed with Begum Sultana Kamal and Dr. Anisuzzaman as President and General Secretary respectively to celebrate the 104th birth day of the litterateur and journalist on November 18, reports BSS.

The committee was formed at a meeting held recently at National Museum with Sardar Fazlul Karim in the chair, says a press release.

Other office-bearers of the committee include, Vice-presidents Dewan Mohammad Azfar, Shaukat Osman, Kabir Chowdhury and Dr. Nilma Ibrahim, Treasurer, Dr. Abdullah Al-Muti Sharifuddin and Joint Secretaries Rashid Hatdar, Mafidul Huq and Makbula Manzoor.

Golden Jubilee of Lady Brabourne College celebrated

By Staff Correspondent

The birth anniversary of late A K Fazlul Haque and the Golden Jubilee of the Lady Brabourne College of Calcutta was celebrated at the WVA auditorium on October 27.

Organised by the Lady Brabourne College Old Students Association, the function was addressed by Fatema Salam, Jahan Ara Rahman, Latif Akhand, Rokeya Rahman Kabir, Jahan Imam, Razia Banu, Begzadi Mahmooda Nasir, Khurshid Alam and Begum Hamida Khanam.

The speakers spoke on the life and achievement of AKM Fazlul Haque and his contribution in all fields.

DMC Teachers Assoc executives SSMCH Correspondent

Prof Gulsan Ara and Dr Quzi Shahidul Alam have been elected President and Secretary respectively of Dhaka Medical College Teachers Association for the year 1991-92.

Prof Akhteruzzaman and Prof Nurul Anwar have been elected as Vice-Presidents.

The other members are Dr Nazmun Nahar, Dr A S Q M Sadeq, Dr K K Nazmul Huda, Dr Motahar Hossain, Dr S M Fazlur Rahman, Dr A B Bhuiyan, Dr A Z M Zahid Hossain, Dr Shekh Nesaruddin and Dr Faruque Ahmed.

Obituary

Khandaker Rafiqul Huq, a senior broadcaster in the Bangla Service of Voice of America died of cardiac arrest on Friday in Washington. He was 66, reports BSS. Born in the district of Faridpur, Khandaker Rafiqul Huq joined the United States Information Agency (USIA) in 1954.

'Arts a unifying force in Asia'

Despite regional diversifications Asian arts have contributed in bringing closer the people of this region irrespective of their religions and castes, reports UNB.

This was observed by speakers at the inaugural session of a two-day international seminar here commencing the 5th Biennial Asian Art Festival.

Dr Syed Manjural Islam of Dhaka University read out the key-note paper titled 'A Critical Appreciation of Asian Art in Relation to World Art' at the seminar, dedicated to late artist Kamrul Ahsan.

Addressing the seminar at Shilpakala Academy auditorium, the participants pledged to create their own arts based on original style, format and ingredients defying the dominance of the European art style, said a press release.

The seminar was split into three sessions chaired by Shilpakala Academy Director General Kamal Lohani, Dr Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir and art critic of France Roid Juri Gera.

Kurada Raishi of Japan, Muliadee Mahmood of Malaysia, Paritosh Sen of India, Shahana Mesbah of Pakistan, Hashem Khan, Muntasir Mamun, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Rafiqun Nabi and Prof. Maniruzzaman and others participated in the discussion on the key-note paper. Saturday's programme for 13 participating countries in the Asian Art Festival and Observer from France included a dance drama 'Mahua' staged at the Academy auditorium in the evening.

The Association members also expressed solidarity with the movement of the Teachers Association Federation and will observe identical programme from November 11, said a press release.

The meeting was addressed, among others by Mansurur Rahman, Didarul Islam, Kazi Faruk Ahmed, Asadul Huq, Abdur Rob, Gems Dilip, Mirza Mohiuddin, Sheikh Akbar Hossain, Amina Islam, Sheikh Abdus Selim, Shamsul Huq, Saidur Rahman, Abdur Razzak and Abdul Khaleq.

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Biswas visits ailing Shamsur Rahman

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Saturday visited Shamsur Rahman, a former MP from Shariatpur, who is now undergoing treatment at the PG Hospital, reports BSS.

The President stayed with him for some time and wished his early recovery.

Chalker visits projects at Cox's Bazar

CHITTAGONG, Nov 2

Lynda Chalker British Minister for Overseas Development, today visited a number of projects at Cox's Bazar taken up under British grant as part of post cyclone rehabilitation and reconstruction programme, reports BSS.

She also visited the Christian Hospital and weaving centre at Chandraghona.

Susan Headlam, Coordinator of Community Health Programme and Dr S M Chowdhury, Superintendent of Christian Hospital, briefed her about functioning of the projects. The UK minister went round different sections of the projects to see for herself its activities.

She also attended a tribal cultural function arranged in her honour. She was accompanied by Collin Imray British High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Richard Manning and other senior officers.

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Birthday Greetings

3rd Nov. 1991
To Ma. Khadija Afzal
D.O.H.S. Dhaka.
Dearest Mummy Khala/Phupu
Happy Birthday. Wishing you
all the best.
From —
All your nieces and nephews.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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