

Dhaka Day by Day

The Chequered Story of Old Clothes

by A S M Nurunnabi

With the advent of the cold weather, a colourful phenomenon appears on some important sidewalks and select areas in the city. I refer to the makeshift markets in old clothes that proliferate in variety and range with the gradual drop in temperature as the cold season progresses. These form as much a part of winter milieu as that season's fruits and vegetables.

This scenario, however, shrouds an unedifying aspect of our social life. In summer, the poorer sections of our people can make do with the minimum of clothing. But on the onset of cold weather, though not so severe in this part of the world, these people, particularly the children and the aged, need thicker covering, especially at night and until the warmth of the sun's rays make them buoyant.

Most of these old clothes are imported from abroad from affluent countries. These affluent people tend to wear their new clothes for a comparatively short period. When these are disposed of and ultimately find their way to markets of poorer countries through exports, some of these old clothes keep their shape, colour and texture that sometimes do not lose their appeal to those having poor sartorial standards and not squeamish about using used clothes.

These markets in old clothes are sometimes satirically called "Nixon Markets" or "Reagan

Markets." It is heard that some patrons of these markets having a lean budget, yet sensitive enough not to make their purchases in the open, wait till dark when chances of meeting known faces are remote.

This is just one side of the story. For the vast majority of needy people, there is absolutely no scope for this kind of complex. They make their purchases openly after a hard battle of haggling, for the sellers normally demand exorbitant prices for their wares. It requires a high level of haggling abilities to make the sellers agree to a substantial reduction in their initially demanded price.

There is one dimension to the affair which is much less in sight, yet poignant and wide-ranging in its subtle prevalence. It may not be much common knowledge that there is also a market for indigenous old clothes. I got the idea which staggered me as I once chance to pass along some lanes in the Chawkbazar areas where there are rows of shops dealing in these commodities. It then struck me that the sources of these wares are mostly those paddlers who go about selling their various wares of plastic, aluminium, etc. strung on bamboo rods across their shoulders in exchange for our old clothes, shoes and other knick knacks, etc. You can well imagine the kind of customers these indigenous wares attract and then your conscience may be ruffled.



Hearing of gold smuggling case against Ershad now on Nov 16

Hearing of the gold smuggling case against deposed president Ershad was deferred till November 16 by the Special Tribunal on an appeal from the accused, reports UNB.

A petition moved by defence counsel Yusuf Hossain Humayun sought stay of the hearing for a week. He submitted that an appeal has been filed before the High Court against the order on the question of framing charge against Ershad.

Prosecution counsel Abdur Razzak Khan initially opposed the petition saying that trial of the case has already been delayed. He contended that the

Riyadh donates \$ 50,000 to ICDDR,B

Saudi Arabia has donated 50 thousand US dollars to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) for implementing its development projects, reports UNB.

Charge d'Affaires of Saudi Arabia Abdul Rahman M A Lohy handed over a cheque of the amount to ICDDR,B Director Prof Demissie Habte on Monday, said a press release Tuesday.

US Navy plane arrives today

A US Navy maritime patrol aircraft P-3 "Orion" will arrive here today (Wednesday) on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The naval aircraft will provide training and orientation opportunities for personnel of the Bangladesh military services.

Static display and briefings in Dhaka and Chittagong are included in the schedule.

Senior Commander of the aircraft will call on senior Bangladesh Naval personnel, said a USIS press release.

BAAS executives

By DU Correspondent
A 12-member executive committee of Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) was formed recently with Prof Aminul Islam and Mohammed Harun-or-Rashid as President and General Secretary of the association respectively.

The other executives are Dr M A Wazed and Dr M A Rahim - Vice-Presidents, Dr Haas-nuzaman and Dr Bahadur Miah - Joint Secretaries and Dr Ferdous Mandal - Treasurer.

The members are - Dr M A Hannan, Prof Mozammel Haque, Prof Hasan Ashrafuzzaman, Ariful Rahman and Prof Lutful Rahman.

Reception

The Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh, Toshio Saiki, on Tuesday hosted a reception to celebrate the birthday of the Emperor Akihito, reports BSS. Ministers, political leaders, diplomats, journalists and elite of the city attended the reception.

Weather

Night temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Met office forecast Tuesday that rain or thundershower is likely at one or two places over the regions of Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Noakhali and Chittagong during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm Tuesday.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Night temperature may fall by one to two degree Celsius during the period, Met office also said.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Tuesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.1	20.2	78	65
Chittagong	29.0	19.0	88	75
Rajshahi	30.1	16.8	78	86
Khulna	30.0	18.4	81	63
Rangpur	30.1	16.0	75	80
Bogra	31.5	17.3	70	72
Srimangal	28.8	16.5	82	84
Cox's Bazar	30.0	20.8	80	76
Barisal	30.2	19.1	95	85

The Sun sets today (Wednesday) at 5-14 pm and it rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 6-13 pm.



CPB President Saifuddin Manik speaking at a reunion of freedom fighters at the office premises on Tuesday. —Star photo

Tk 736.63cr health, population projects approved

A special meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) Tuesday approved 19 projects in the 4th health and population programme involving Tk 736.63 crore with foreign exchange components amounting to Tk 171.70 crore, reports UNB.

An official handout said the approved projects form part of a total of more than 60 development projects which are components of the integrated 4th population and health project.

The approved projects in-

clude family planning clinical service project, strengthening maternity and child health services, construction of population and health buildings, functional improvement of upazila health complexes, establishment of mother and child institute and control of diarrhoeal diseases.

The projects are under World Bank consortium which includes Australia, Canada, UK, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Japan, Germany, Belgium, EEC and IDA as co-financier.

The 4th population and

health project in Bangladesh is the largest single project undertaken by the World Bank consortium in any developing country, which is expected to contribute towards larger investment in this basic need sector.

The projects are scheduled to be implemented in 5 years beginning in January, 1992. The special ECNEC meeting was held here with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair, who underlined the high priority accorded to the population and health sector.

Among others, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, T & T Minister M Keramat Ali, Commerce Minister M K Anwar, Planning Minister M M Zahiruddin Khan, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, State Minister for Social Welfare Sarwari Rahman were present in the meeting.

Sacrifices of Betiabar martyrs recalled

Nine freedom fighters who embraced martyrdom in face to face fighting with the occupation Pakistani forces on November 11, '71, in "Betiabar" battle were fondly remembered at a reunion of the freedom fighters at the Bangladesh Communist Party office in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Speakers paid tributes to the nine freedom fighters and those valiant sons of the soil who had shed blood for the liberation of motherland and urged greater unity of the freedom fighters regardless of their political affiliation.

Presided over by Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, President of the CPB, the occasion was addressed, among others, by freedom fighter Colonel (ret) Shawkat Ali, MP, Nayeem Jehangir, Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu and Communist Party leaders Comrade Nurul Islam Nahid and Comrade Morshed Ali.

Nurul Islam Nahid, paying tributes to the nine martyrs, said the CPB organised a meeting at Betiabar on Monday to mark the sacrifices of the "Shaheeds".

He deplored that the "Shaheed Minar" erected at Betiabar is threatened due to the expansion scheme of Choddogram-Feni road. He

urged the government to carry out the expansion work without affecting the "Shaheed Minar" in any form.

Col (ret) Shawkat Ali said it was a misfortune that the freedom fighters lacked unity and they were divided on such issues like declaration of independence.

While urging for writing the history of freedom struggle in its true perspective, he said the biggest hurdle to such exercise was the unwillingness on the part of many of recognise the contribution of what is due to someone.

Nayeem Jehangir said collaborators of 1971 and collaborators of autocracy in 1990 could get away easily. He wondered why no commission was set up to find out persons responsible for killing anti-autocracy demonstrators in the recent mass upsurge.

Morshed Ali called for publishing a list of genuine freedom fighters.

Chhatra Samaj demonstration Nov 16

By DU Correspondent
Sangrami Chhatra Samaj (SCS) has decided to hold demonstration on November 16 in front of the National Press Club demanding violence-free campus and release of deposed president Ershad.

It will also submit a memorandum to the Ministry of Home and the Ministry of Education.



5.00	Opening announcement Al Quran Programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Reading from the Gesta
5.30	Campus
6.00	Sports programme
6.30	Shamachar
7.05	Hizal Tamal : Songs programme
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Biswa Parikrama
9.00	Film show : MacGyver
10.00	News in English
10.30	Muktadhara
11.30	Khobar/The News
11.45	Close down

Biswas hands over key of a bus to KU VC

President Abdur Rahman Biswas formally handed over the key of a bus to the Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University, Prof Goolam Rahman, at a simple ceremony at Bangabhaban on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The 52-seat capacity bus will help the university students to meet their transport problem.

The Vice-Chancellor of the university expressed his gratitude to the President and the government for providing the bus to the students.

President Biswas also handed over the key of another bus to Alamgir M A Kabir, President of the society for the care and education of the mentally retarded. The bus has been given for solving the transport problem of the mentally retarded children of the society.

Alamgir M A Kabir, who is a former Presidential Adviser and a renowned social worker, expressed his gratitude to the President for this noble gesture.

Education Secretary M Mustafizur Rahman and Secretary to the President A N M Eusuf were present on the occasion.

Birthday Greetings

13th Nov. 1991

To our 'lost' cousin Raju who is preparing to become a doctor. Please help the poor when you become one. Wish you many happy returns of the day and roaring practice as a doctor.

Cousins Shena & Sheahan

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What's on today

ICDDR, B Trustee Board meeting

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B) will hold the 25th meeting of its Board of Trustees from today (Wednesday).

The two-day meeting will review and consider reports of the programme committee for scientific activities and those of the committees for finance and personnel.

The Trustee Board meeting will be followed by a meeting of the ICDE, B donor support group. It will be inaugurated by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf.

Garments Workers' Action Committee

A press conference of Garments-Workers and Employees Action Committee will be held at 3 pm today (Wednesday) at ground floor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) at 68/2 Purana Paltan.

The leaders of the committee will address the conference on the present condition of the garments workers and employees and also announce their next programme.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North-West

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North-West will be held today (Wednesday) at Sonargaon Hotel at 5.30 pm.

All the members have been requested to attend the meeting.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Mid-town

The 686th regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Mid-town will be held today (Wednesday) at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel at 5.30 pm.

All the members have been requested to attend.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga

The regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga, will be held today (Wednesday) at Sonargaon Hotel at 5.30 pm.

Serge Degallai, the Ambassador of France in Bangladesh, will discuss on "Bangladesh in tomorrow's World Economy" as the guest speaker for the week.

All the members of the club have been requested to attend it.

Certificate awarding ceremony

The first certificate awarding ceremony of Darul Ihsan University at Balbhadra at Savar, will be held today (Wednesday) at the university campus at 3.30 pm.

The function will be presided over by Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasif, Chancellor of the University and Secretary General of Rabita Alam-e-Islami while Jamir Uddin Sarkar, Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs, will attend the function as the chief guest.

Bangladesh Islamic Party

A discussion meeting of Bangladesh Islamic Party will be held today (Wednesday) at the National Book Central at 4 pm. The meeting will be presided over by Advocate Farmanullah Khan, Prof Shahed Ali will attend the meeting as the chief guest while Prof Gafur and poet Faruque Mahmood, will attend the meeting as special guests.

Rehabilitation of Bashbari fire victims assured

Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar Tuesday visited fire devastated Bashbari area under Mohammadpur thana in the city, reports UNB. He talked to the affected people and assured that the government would do everything possible to rehabilitate those rendered homeless by the fire incident.

2 more Indian fishing boats seized : 22 held

Bangladesh Navy Ship Padma Monday apprehended two more Indian fishing boats and arrested all 22 crew members of the boats, an ISPR press release said in Dhaka Tuesday, reports BSS.

The Indian boats were seized while they were engaged in fishing illegally near the fairway buoy which is well inside the territorial water of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the naval patrol boat deployed to carry out fishery protection patrol apprehended a total of 8 local fishing boats for plying without necessary papers while some of them were arrested for suspicious movement. The boats along with the crew members were later handed over to the police.

Jatiya Mahila Sangstha reorganised

Government has transformed the Jatiya Mahila Sangstha into a statutory organisation with a view to ensuring women's uplift and involve them in all spheres of national life, reports UNB.

Begum Selima Rahman MP has been appointed Chairman of the Governing Council of the reorganised Jatiya Mahila Sangstha. The organisation will have a 90-member council and 12-member executive committee.

Government hopes that the reorganised Mahila Sangstha will be able to make positive contribution to the development of the country's women community.

Beijing-Dhaka ties to grow

The Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Chen Songlu called on Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali at his office chamber in Sangsad Bhaban on Tuesday, reports BSS.

According to a press release, the Chinese envoy exchanged views with the Speaker on parliamentary issues with special emphasis on exchange of parliamentary delegations between Bangladesh and China.

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