

# Dhaka Day by Day

## All Spit and Polish

by Mohammad Ahsan Kabir

One of the humble pleasures of Bangladesh is the paan, a homemade blend of supari etc. and to our surprise he is currently planning to build a new house for his family.

or areca nut, and tobacco wrapped in betel leaves, that is chewed for its flavour and then spat out. But in big, busy cities, like Dhaka, one has little time to make paan anymore — except for people like Shah Alam. In the past four years, the "Panwallah" — literally, Paanman — has made more than tidy sum from the folded betel leaves that he sells for fifty paise a single and one taka for a double one.

The fruits of paan are nothing to sneeze at. The son of a fourth class government employee from Chandpur who migrated to the capital 25 years ago, Alam was making 2000 taka a month 4 years ago. Now serving 400-500 paans a day and working 12 hours, he takes in about 10,000 taka. At the incipient stage of his business, his only object of luxury was a radio. Now he is the proud owner of a Sony TV and pays 1200 taka a month in rent for his Shaorapara's residence which he furnished with modern furniture like showcase, dressing table, bedstead



Shah Alam and his shop: 500 paans a day.

Alam's wife, Josna Begum, a typical housewife work from daybreak to dusk managing the household efficiently over the years. "She is much more than a housewife," says Alam with a smile adding, "we are happy indeed with our two kids" who are schooling in a private kindergarten. "Children start off at a great advantage if they go to Kindergarten Schools," says Alam, who could not finish his high school studies as his father, Kashem Ali Dewan, who recently retired from his job, decided the family could not afford it.

In fact, he was expected to follow in the footsteps of his father, who had started out by serving at a post office. When that venture failed, he switched to making paan and business slowly picked up. Today while paan continues to be the source of most of Shah Alam's income, he has diversified into cigarettes, cosmetics, toys, utensils as well. His long term goal: a restaurant of his own.

## Call to make mass literacy programme a success

Minister for Education Jamiruddin Sirer Friday called upon all quarters to cooperate with the government to materialise its mass literacy and compulsory primary education programmes by the year 2001, reports BSS.

Sirer was addressing as the chief guest the prize giving ceremony of Agargaon (Taltala) Government Colony High School in Dhaka.

He said the government had a plan to establish one boys' and girls' high school in each upazila or thana. The affiliated schools, which have been getting government donations, would continue to get such funds, he added.

The minister said the government had a desire to allot funds for the schools which were not getting it at present.

Among others, Treasurer of BNP Shah Alam MP, President of the Governing Committee of the School Mahbubur Rahman, Headmaster Mujibur Rahman Hawladar and Ahsanul Haque a local BNP leader addressed the function.

## Publication ceremony held

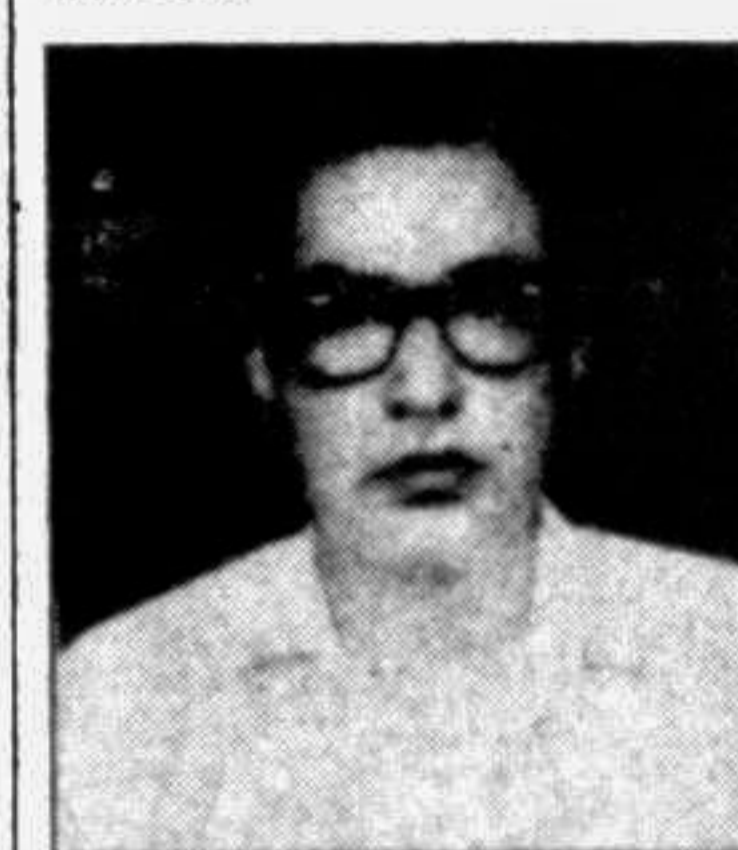
CHITTAGONG, Nov 22: The publication ceremony of two books was held at the Azadi Auditorium here today, reports BSS.

The two books are 'Itihās Chetnās' (Consciousness of History) by Dr Moinajuddin Patwary and 'Bangla Bananer Niyom' (The rules of Bengali Spelling) by Prof Mahbubul Haq.

Organised by Chittagong District Unit of Bangladesh College University Teachers' Association, the publication ceremony was presided over by the Editor of the Daily Azadi Prof Mohammad Khaled.

Dr Hayat Mahmood, Dr Anupom Sen, Dr Mahmudul Haq, Prof Chowdhury Zahurul Haq, Prof Saifuddin Alam, Dr Moinajuddin Patwary and Prof Mahbubul Haq spoke on the occasion, touching on different aspects of the two books.

The ceremony was rounded off with a colourful cultural function.



## Quran Khwani of Ahmad Mansur Anam held

By Staff Correspondent  
Quran Khwani of Ahmad Mansur Anam, the eldest son of Abul Mansur Ahmad, was held Friday at his paternal residence in Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

A discussion meeting was also held on the life of Mansur Anam who was a well known insurance executive and a literary figure of considerable repute in Mymensingh.

The participants of the meeting decided to form a memorial committee to honour the memory of the departed soul. The Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Khan Pannil elected the President and Matlub Anam the General Secretary.

## TV Saturday

- 5-00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, programme summary
- 5-10 News in Bangla
- 5-20 Recitation from the Triptak
- 5-30 Sports world
- 5-55 Documentary programme: Museum around the world
- 6-30 Jibon O Prazukti
- 7-05 Banabari
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 9-00 Sambar
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Dusra series — Dallas
- 11-30 Khabar/The News
- 11-40 Verses from the Quran
- 11-45 Closing

## Weather

### Dry spell to prevail

Dry weather is likely to continue across the country during the next 24 hours till 6 pm Saturday, reports UNB.

Met office says night temperature may fall by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

Friday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 27.5 degree Celsius and the minimum 15.4 degrees. Country's lowest temperature 11.2 degrees was recorded at Jessore. Percentage of humidity was 61 in the morning and 63 in the evening.

Sun sets today (Saturday) at 5:11 pm and rises on Sunday at 6:20 am.



Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing a function organised by Shah Mohammad Sharif Smriti Parisad at the auditorium of Supreme Court Bar Association on Friday. —Star photo

## Artists can reflect true picture of society: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Friday called upon the persons engaged in creative activities to contribute their best under the present free democratic atmosphere towards enriching the country's traditional and culture heritage, reports BSS.

He said, artistic production show new dimension which always paves the way for future guidance in that particular

field. "Artists, particularly the sculptors should reflect the true picture of the society by their strong sense of creativity," he added.

The President was inaugurating a solo culture exhibition of ARM Azad at the National Museum in Dhaka. The 11-day exhibition will continue upto December 2.

President Biswas termed

## Shahabuddin seeks cooperation between Bar and Bench

Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Friday stressed the need for increasing cooperation between the Bar and the Bench, reports BSS.

Addressing a function, organised by Shah Mohammad Sharif Smriti Parisad in observance of his second death anniversary, as the chief guest, he urged the lawyers to be more respectful to the judges.

Held at the auditorium of Supreme Court Bar Association with Advocate Nizamuddin Ahmed, President of the Smriti Parisad in the chair, the function was also addressed by Attorney General Aminul Haq, Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed, Dr. Rafiqur Rahman, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Khondker Mahabub Uddin, Justice T. H. Khan, Gazi

A. Mannan and Fakhru Islam. Paying tributes to the memory of Advocate Shah Mohammad Sharif, who died while on duty, Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed described him as a man of amiable disposition. He prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Attorney General Aminul Haq, recalling his close association with Sharif said he had three-our session with Shah Sharif at his chamber the day before his death.

Khondker Mahabubuddin, paying tributes to Advocate Sharif, described him as a practising Muslim. In an emotion choked voice, he said Advocate Sharif was a man without pretence. Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed said Sharif died a premature death.

## 72-hr ultimatum to arrest N Ganj brothel brokers

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 22: The Unislamic Activities Resistance Committee (UARC) here reactivated its movement for eviction of the town's two brothels today with announcement fresh programmes.

The Committee at a public meeting in front of the local Press Club in the afternoon gave a 72-hour ultimatum to the authorities to arrest the

brothel businessmen and their brokers. Otherwise, the UARC would stage the brothels at Tanbazar and Tantpara, the meeting warned.

The meeting also named the newly elected executives of the UARC headed by Alhaj Khwaja Mohiuddin, an ex-Commissioner of the Poursabha.

Chaired by Khwaja Mohiuddin, the meeting was also addressed by the former Chairman of the Poursabha Najimuddin Mahmud, ex-Commissioner Rafiqul Islam (also Secretary General of the new Executive Body) and Jahangir Alam, Maolana Moinuddin, Maolana Abdul Hamid and Sanaulah.

Rafiqul Islam announced the name of six persons whom the UARC black-listed on charge of being involved in protecting the brothels. The black-listed people include, a local journalist, two owners of the brothels and two labour leaders.

Najimuddin Mahmud proposed to rename Tanbazar with Islambazar.

Other speakers called upon the district administration to take immediate steps for eviction of the brothels and punish the businessmen involved with prostituting.

They also urged the authorities to drive out the children and underage girls from the brothels without further delay. If the authorities fail to do so the UARC would gherao the DC's office the speakers cautioned.

The Minister reiterated government's firm commitment to root out corruption and anarchy and to deal with iron hand the anti-social and anti-people elements. He sought all out cooperation of the people in this regard.

## Nine city roads named after former public representatives

By Staff Correspondent  
Dhaka City Corporation Thursday named nine roads of the metropolis after some former Municipal chairmen, vice-chairmen, commissioners and sardars in recognition to their contribution to public service.

A City Corporation press release said the road from the Hardeo Glass Factory to Dayaganj bridge was named Kazi Md. Bashir Road, the road from Narinda Bridge to Nawabpur Bridge was named Abdur Rahim Road, and from the KP Ghosh Street to French Road was named Md. Habidullah Road.

## Rabitat donates \$ 5,000 for madrasha

The Meekkah based Rabitat Al-Alam Al-Islami donated an amount of 5,000 US dollars to Madrasha Khalid Bin Walid, Moheshkhal, Cox's Bazar, reports UNB.

The Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Abullatif Abdullah Al-Maimance handed over the cheque to Maulana Nurul Kabir, a representative of the Madrasha in Dhaka on Wednesday.

## Military hardware display extended till Monday

The grand display of military hardware in the city has been extended till Monday because of the heavy rush of enthusiastic spectators, an ISPR press release said Friday, reports UNB.

The exhibition arranged at the north-western part of the old airport on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day will remain open for public viewing from 8 am to 5 pm everyday.

## What's on today . . .

### DUTA meeting

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has convened a general meeting today (Saturday) at 11 am at the DU Club building. The meeting will discuss resumption of classes of the university.

The DUTA is now on an indefinite strike since November 2 demanding government action against campus violence.

### Workshop on environment

The opening ceremony of the workshop on 'Practical remote sensing applied in environmental impact assessment and monitoring' will be held today (Saturday) at 9 am at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) at Farmgate in the city.

The workshop, organised jointly by the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and the Royal Institute of Technology (KIT), Sweden will be addressed by Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control and Prof M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of the BUET as chief guest and special guest respectively.

### Bangladesh Sakkharata Samity

A discussion meeting on 'Education for all in Bangladesh' organised by Bangladesh Sakkharata Samity will be held today (Saturday) at 3 pm at the auditorium of the Institute of Engineers in the city.

Barrister Nazmul Huda, Minister for Information will attend as the chief guest while Chowdhury AKM Aminul Haq and Mostafizur Rahman will be present as special guest.

Prof Quazi Saleh Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University will preside over the meeting.

### National Workers Federation

National Workers Federation has decided to hold a rally today (Saturday) at 11 am in front of the National Press Club protesting the attack on the garments workers by the police.

### Press Briefing by Food Minister

Food Minister M Shamsul Islam will hold a press briefing today (Saturday) at 11 am at the conference room of the Ministry of Food to inform the journalists drive for collecting 'Aman' paddy.

### Central Internee Doctors' Council

Central Internee Doctors' Council (CIDC) has organised a press conference today (Saturday) at 5 pm at the National Press Club to discuss its six-point charter of demand.

### Art Exhibition

A month long art exhibition organised by Saju Art Gallery will begin today (Saturday) at 10 am at its show-room at North Super Market (2nd circle), Gulshan.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will attend the function as the Chief Guest while Mr Serge Degallax, Ambassador of France in Bangladesh will be present as special guest. National Professor Dr Nurul Islam will preside over the function.

## and tomorrow

### Seminar on 'German Market'

A four-day seminar on 'how to approach German Market' will begin tomorrow (Sunday) at 10 am at the auditorium of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The seminar jointly organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, German-Asia Pacific Business Association and the Embassy of Germany in Bangladesh will be inaugurated by Mr Shamsul Islam Khan, Minister for Industry.

German Ambassador will attend the seminar as the special guest. An exhibition on various jute products, handicrafts, jewellery, ceramic goods, garment products, leather products, frozen items, tea, cosmetics, electronics and electronic goods etc. will also be held there. Compiled by SM

## Raise literacy rate for uplift: Planning Minister

Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan Friday stressed the need for an increase in the literacy rate of the people through mass literacy for overall development of the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a seminar on 'Education for All', organised

## Mother of Ataus Samad dead

Sayera Banu, wife of a noted educationist late Abdu Samad, died at her Naya Palan residence in Dhaka Friday morning. She was 85, reports UNB.

She died of old age and heart ailment.

The deceased left behind three sons, three daughters, grand children and a host of relations to mourn her death.

Her eldest son Azizus Samad is a businessman, second son eminent journalist Ataus Samad and the third son Atiqus Samad, a broadcaster.

Her Nazim-e-Janaza was held after Juma prayers at the Naya Palan Masjid.

She was buried at Banani graveyard in the city. Qul Khawant of Sayera Banu will be held on Monday at 4 pm at her residence.

## BDRCS team leaves for Budapest

A five member Bangladesh delegation will leave Dhaka on today to attend the 26th International Conference of the Red-Cross and Red Crescent in the Hungarian capital of Budapest, reports BSS.

The delegation will be led by Syed Shahidul Haque Jamal, chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to the conference which is the supreme deliberative body for the movement.

It is a forum in which representatives of the movement and of the states party to the Geneva conventions can discuss both the major decisions to be adopted in the realm of International Humanitarian Law and the movements principles and specific problems encountered by the movement in its operational activities.

The last conference held in October 1986 in Geneva, focussed on two subjects — compliance with International Humanitarian Law and its conformity of support for the work of the ICRC International Committee of Red Cross in armed conflict and the revision of the movement's statutes.

## ADCAB chief leaves for Thailand today

Motahanna Motahar Rashid, Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and an eminent Constitutional expert is leaving for Thailand today (Saturday) en route to Sri Lanka.

He is travelling to Sri Lanka to deliver a series of lectures on the recent developments in the field of Constitutional Law in Bangladesh that are relevant to the Constitutional Law in Sri Lanka and other South Asian Nations.

The lectures will be addressed at the University of Colombo.

Motahanna Rashid is the President of the Association for Democratic and Constitutional Advancement of Bangladesh (ADCAB).