

Dhaka Day by Day

Thursday's children

by Sabah Chowdhury

Children's parks are a fantasy world for every child. So is the 'Shishu Park' the only of its kind with a variety of items for children to play with and enjoy.

But in a city starved of entertainment, the Shishu Park is one place which offers a choice for the entire family. The entry fee is only Taka 3 per person, and something extra for each item. It is reasonable by any standard, and provides a kind of egalitarian fun. Even newly-married couples are seen enjoying themselves, proving that Shishu Park is not for the children only.

The park is open to visitors, every day of the week, from 3 p.m. in the afternoon to 9 p.m. at night. The weekly closing day is Sunday.

The days when it is open, the space facing the entrance is crowded with hawkers of every

kind. To a passerby it would appear that the park was closed. The crowd of people as well as hawkers is almost non-existent, nor is there any kind of vehicle parked outside. Thursday is the 'Tukias Day' at Shishu Park.

On this day they are not chased away from the gates by unfriendly gate-keepers.

The security guards informed that the attendance at the park on this day of the week is between 1500 to 2000. They come from far and near, but almost all of them from the slums.

One could see their excited giggle and laughter as they took turns at each item: the merry-go-round, the butter-cup etc. Amongst the favourite items are the Ferris Wheel and the train.

"Often when we pass by this place on other days, we count the number of days to go before



Thursday's children having a merry ride on the buttercup — Star photo

Thursday would come again", said Mahbub, who had come from Mirpur all by himself in a bus.

The Shishu Park would be a dismal look that day, just as the torn, dirty, half-clad children. The Shishu Park had gone poor too. It was as if it had lost its festivity and colour. The eating shops remain close that day, just like many such doors will remain closed for the unprivileged.

However, for a few fleeting hours, these children had forgotten their miserable plight. They had become cheerful like all others of their age, who visit the park on other days of the week.

The children of affluent homes have thousand things to play and throw away, but for the street children of Thursdays this is the only day to hang on and cherish.

kind selling toys, candies, colourful balloons etc. Men, women, and children can be seen getting down from cars or rickshaws, walking hurriedly to join the already long queue of visitors, waiting their turn to buy the tickets. It is often a common sight to see children trying various means of persuasion to force their reluctant parents to buy them a particular toy of their fancy.

Inside the park there is a mood noticeably festive. Besides men, women, and children, attired in colourful dresses, the air is full of loud cheers and innocent laughter of children. The restaurants are busy selling coffee, chat-pati, lassi etc. both in open air, or under colourfully decorated concrete umbrellas, as well as inside their shops.

But things are different every Thursdays of

Plea to take action against 3 DGs

Fifty leading poets of the country Wednesday called for taking proper action against the Directors General of Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy and National Museum, reports BSS.

In a joint statement, they described Mahmud Shah Qureshi, Mahbub Talukdar and Dr. Enamul Huq, Directors General of Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy and the National Museum respectively as close collaborators of the autocratic government of ex-President Ershad and sponsors behind the conspiracy against "Bengali national tradition and culture." They regretted that although these people were still creating obstacles in the way of development of democracy and progressive culture remaining in their respective positions, no step has yet been taken against them.

They charged Mahbub Talukdar with creating impediments in holding an art exhibition at Shilpakala Academy in

connection with the third death anniversary of late celebrated artist Kamrul Hassan.

They demanded immediate removal of these persons and appealed to the students, and political leaders to extend their cooperation in this respect.

The poets issuing the joint statement include Shamsur Rahman, Syed Shamsul Huq, Mahadev Saha, Humayun Azad, Sayeed Atiqullah, Faiz Ahmed, Belal Chowdhury, Rafiq Azad, Nirmalendu Goon and Mohammad Rafiq.

ML wants rule of law

By Staff Correspondent

President of Bangladesh Muslim League, Mr Muhammad Ayeenuddin on Thursday said that an environment that ensures freedom of speech is must for the country, according to a party press release.

Call to clarify fines on ML convicts

The Action Committee for freeing the prisoners convicted in Martial Law courts during the Ershad regime on Wednesday called upon the government to give a clarification regarding the fines imposed on the convicted persons by the military courts, reports BSS.

The President and the General Secretary of the committee Mr. Shamsul Haq Badal and Mr. Golam Molla, in a statement pointed out that the government had already decided, under special consideration and concession, to release those prisoners who had completed half of their imprisonment period and large number of prisoners had already been freed from different jails under this provision.

They said, but in the absence of any instruction regarding the fines, a large number of prisoners could not be freed. The jail authorities also could not give any explanation to this effect.

They demanded exemption of proportional amount of fines as in the case of imprisonment period and allowing the prisoners to be freed on payment of the rest of the amount.

Pro-independence body formed

A meeting of some pro-independence personalities held Wednesday at a residence in Dhanmondi in Dhaka formed a 21-member committee with Dr. A. K. Azad Chowdhury as the first convener, a press release said, reports BSS.

The other members of the 6-member panel of convening committee are Dr. S. A. Malek, Mostafa Sarwar, Gazul Huq, Habibur Rahman Milon, Dr. Durgadas Bhattacharya and Aminul Islam Bedu, the release said.

Concern over delay in trial of Ershad

Awami League leader Dr. Kamal Hossain has demanded trial of the ousted President Ershad, reports UNB.

Addressing a series of public gatherings at his Mirpur constituency from where he is contesting the parliamentary polls, Dr. Kamal expressed concern over the delay in the trial of Ershad despite specific charges of corruption and misuse of power.

He also demanded shifting of Ershad and Raushan Ershad to the Central Jail in consonance with the demand of students and the people.

Jute accord with Pakistan ratified

Bangladesh and Pakistan have ratified the new International Agreement on Jute and Jute products 1989, reports UNB.

According to International Jute Organisation (IJO) press release issued, Thursday the two countries had earlier signed the Agreement.

So far Bangladesh China and India accounting for 89.13 percent of world total exports of jute and jute products have signed and ratified or taken equivalent measures.

Twenty one Countries -12 member Countries of the European Economic Community (EEC), Pakistan, Indonesia, Switzerland, Japan, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Egypt and the USA accounting for 62.65 percent of imports have signed the Agreement, the press release added.

Dhaka, Delhi talk border issues

Bangladesh and India on Thursday discussed trans border crimes, their specific identification and effective counter measures in Rangpur at a one day Border Coordination Conference, reports UNB.

Ranjit Das, Inspector General of Border Security Forces, North Bengal and Brigadier Abdullah Al Hussain, Deputy Director General of Bangladesh Rifles led the respective delegations.

Matters relating to smuggling, law and order situation in border areas, maintenance of border pillars and other allied issues figured prominently in the conference, says a BDR press release.

Transit facilities to enclaves

India has given the Bangladesh authorities a 3-month transit permission to visit the two enclaves of Dahagram and Angarpota, reports UNB.

Foreign Office sources Wednesday said the permission, which is effective from January 24, was given to facilitate Bangladesh officials to hold elections and population census.



Anniversary of Quamrul's death tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Different socio-cultural organisations throughout Bangladesh will observe the third death anniversary of celebrated painter Quamrul Hassan on February 2 with due solemnity.

On the occasion, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation has arranged a day-long programme. Floral wreaths will be placed on his grave at 9-30 a.m. by the Corporation officials and a discussion meeting will be held at 2-30 p.m. at the auditorium of the Corporation.

Quamrul Hassan was associated with the BSCIC.

An authority in the field after Zainul Abedin, Quamrul had earned for himself II. M. Ershad's wrath when he sketched at a Dhaka University function, the former President as a die-hard autocrat. Incidentally, the painter died immediately after completing his work following a massive heart attack.

Wellknown poet and a friend of the painter, Syed Atiqullah later published a detailed report on the incident and the sketch itself in the daily Sangbad, causing indignation to the power caucuses.

Quamrul was known both at home and abroad for projecting vividly different facets of rural life in the country. The third death anniversary of prominent artist Kamrul Hassan will be observed by 'Artist Kamrul Hasan Othiayia Parishad' tomorrow (Saturday) at 4.30 p.m. at the Institute of Arts and Crafts, says a press release.

A child art exhibition and a memorial meeting will be organised for the occasion. Begum Sufia Kamal will preside over the function while Prof. Iqbaluddin Ahmed, Presidential Adviser for Culture will be the chief guest.

Bangladeshi troops not in Gulf battle

Bangladeshi troops stationed in Saudi Arabia are not involved in any ground battle taking place between the US-led multinational forces and Iraqi army along Saudi-Kuwait border, reports UNB.

An official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Thursday that our troops had been posted in a place quite far from the town of Al Khafzi, theatre of recent land battles. Dhaka has sent troops to Saudi Arabia on a purely bilateral basis and upon condition

that they were to defend the holy places in the kingdom from possible attacks.

Bangladesh's army contingent of 2230 personnel is not a part of the multinational forces and they could not be used for any other purpose other than defensive, the official maintained.

Replying to a question, he said "Bangladesh opposes the escalation of the war".

"If Israel joins the war, Bangladesh will review the situation," he added.

The official further stated, "It will create complication and is likely to divide coalition developed under the UN resolutions to drive Iraq out of Kuwait."

"Such unwanted development will only help escalate the war", he said.

Bangladesh extends unequivocal support to UN resolutions on the Gulf crisis seeking total withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate government of the tiny Sheikhdom.

Bring back troops from Saudi Arabia

By Staff Correspondent

World Muslim Youth Movement has condemned indiscriminate bombing on Iraq by United States and its allies violating UN Security Council Resolution.

In a Press release on Thursday, the Secretary General of the organisation Zahirul Huq Zahir demanded of the government to bring back Bangladesh soldiers from Saudi Arabia immediately.

The Movement, Tejaon thana command organised a destitute feeding programme at Karwan Bazar on Thursday.

Munajat was offered before the programme wishing success and long life of Iraqi President Saddam Hossain and peace in the Gulf.

Tagore song festival begins

By Staff Correspondent

Nation needs Rabindranath in every sphere of life for a healthy and prosperous culture, said the speakers at the inaugural session of the third national 'Tagore Song Festival' at the Shilpakala Academy Auditorium Wednesday.

The festival included three days programme was organised by 'Bangladesh Rabindranath Songit Shilpi Sangstha'.

Presided over by noted artist Kalim Sharaft, the festival was inaugurated by veteran artist (singer) Abdul Ahad. Literatureur Shawkat Osman was the chief Guest of the first day programme.

Kalim Sharaft in his speech alleged, we say Rabindranath Tagore 'Poet of the world' but we do not respect him as our national poet.

He hoped that in the new Bangladesh after fallen autocracy, Rabindranath would be evaluated properly.

The festival patronised by 'Singer Bangladesh Limited' was dedicated to the memory of singer Parimal Datta and Abdul Halim Chowdhury who died on 27 January (Last Sunday).

Adopt family planning

Adviser M. A. Kabir Thursday urged the members of the Lions Clubs to put in their best effort to motivating and Educating the rural people so that they could adopt family planning to check rapid population growth, reports BSS.

Mr. Kabir who is in-charge of social Welfare, Women Affairs, Youth and Sports was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on 'family planning and population control' organised by Lions Clubs International District-315 B, Bangladesh at a hotel in Dhaka.

He urged the Lions Clubs to undertake at least one pilot project by each club on family planning and population control. He said people should be educated to make the population control programme a success and also to reduce child mortality and morbidity.

The seminar was addressed, among others, by Director General of Family Planning Directorate M. Najmul Huq, Lion District Governor M. Abdul Malek and Lion Region Chairman Lt. Col (Retd) Hasmuddin Ahmed.

Guides council Feb 6

The 16th National Council session of Bangladesh Girls Guide Association will begin at its office in Dhaka on February 6, an association press release said in Dhaka Wednesday, reports BSS.

Correction

It was inadvertently mentioned in the story 'Of Romance and Culture' published in the regular column Dhaka Day by Day on Wednesday that 'Taiwan brought in fresh dances and fashion show'. But the dance was in fact based on Taiwanese folk song and performed by the Chinese dancers. The mistake is regretted.

Wednesday's road accident death toll rises to 13

Two more injured of Wednesday's road accidents in Dhaka died at hospital raising the death toll to 13, hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Abdul Aziz (30), a rickshaw puller admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital Wednesday with severe head injury, died Thursday morning raising the death toll of Dhaka accident to nine.

Six people were killed on the spot and two others died at the DMC Hospital when a truck smashed through several rickshaws in Tejgaon on Wednesday.

Sardar Shahjahan, an injured of Wednesday's temporary head-on collision near Joykali Mandir, died this morning.

Shahjahan, an employee of Janata Bank Nazmuddin Road branch, was brought to the DMC Hospital along with four others. According to Fire Brigade sources, three people had died on the spot and another died at the DMC.

Lovers try to commit suicide

By Staff Correspondent

Two teenage students of Jinjira Pilot High School at Keraniganj are now undergoing treatment at the Milford Hospital after their joint abortive bid to commit suicide on Wednesday.

Jamal, a student of class -X, had a love with his cousin Kamala of Class VII for two years. They are inhabitants of village Kuthuria of Keraniganj. Hospital sources said, Jamal along with Kamala drank three bottles of poison at one of friends' house as their parents rejected marriage proposals. Kamala's condition is serious, according to hospital sources.

NDP favours equal distribution of resources

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of National Democratic Party (NDP) on Thursday said that NDP was pledged bound to build up economic infrastructure of the country through realistic planning of equal-distribution of resources.

They addressed two election meetings at Dulhajara in Cox's Bazar, among others party Secretary General Salauddin Kader Chowdhury and party leader Gias Uddin Kader Chowdhury spoke at the meetings, a press release said.

NAP rally today

By Staff Correspondent

Advocate Majibur Rahman, NAP (Bhasani) candidate in the coming Parliament elections from Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur (Dhaka-9) constituency will launch his election campaign today (Friday) by violating ban on plying rickshaws on VIP Road (Mymensingh Road).

PROGRAMME

Seminar on war

The International Studies Association, Bangladesh (ISAB) and the Department of International Relations will jointly hold a seminar on 'Gulf war and the prospects for peace' at 12 noon tomorrow (Saturday) at Room No. 202, in the Department of International Relations, Dhaka University, says a Press release.

The seminar will be presided over by Professor Muzaffar Ahmed, Vice-Chairman of the ISAB Advisory Board. Former Foreign Secretary and ISAB Advisory Board Chairman Mr. Tabaruk Hossain will attend as guest of honour. Students of the Department of International Relations will speak on the subject and teachers of the department will also participate in the discussion.

General meeting

The 5th annual general meeting and elections of the St. Joseph Old Boys Association will begin today (Friday) at the school premises at 10 a.m.

Kamrul's show

An exhibition of over 100 selected art works of late artist Kamrul Hassan begins in Dhaka today (Friday) at the National Museum, reports BSS.

A National Museum Press release Thursday said the exhibition would continue till February 20.

SIPHA meet

The election meeting of Smoking and Intoxicant Preventive Human Service Association (SIPHA) will be held on today (Friday) at 4 p.m. at Malibang Bipani Bitan (1st floor) in the city.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Assistants
- 6 Shoulder
- 11 Grate
- 12 Matures
- 14 " - u, - u"
- 15 Expired
- 17 Break
- 20 Brittle
- 23 Wine cup
- 24 Pedal digits
- 26 Pastime
- 28 Teutonic
- 29 Viper
- 31 Flash
- 33 Pinches
- 35 Pintail duck
- 36 Erred in estimating
- 39 Leaks through

Answer to Previous Puzzle

SPED SHAD ATE
AERO TAME ROY
IR TRAM NOR
FA HIPS HARP
PERT DELL SER
ACERB RUES PI
STAIRS RETIRE
TI PINT SIDES
EOS MARS REST
SNAP GETS AE
TEA MEET NU
ODE POOR ANTS
ROD TERN POSE

DOWN

- 4 Heroic event
- 5 Prophets
- 6 T, -, -, Q, P
- 7 Agave plant
- 8 Harvest goddess
- 9 River in
- 10 Gipsy paint
- 11 Chairs
- 13 Extra
- 16 Plunges
- 19 Wherewithal
- 21 Soaks up
- 22 English baby
- 25 Song-and-dance acts
- 27 Corners
- 30 Period of time
- 32 Petains
- 34 Painful
- 36 Specks
- 37 Standards of perfection
- 38 Slay
- 40 Canal
- 41 Biennial
- 44 TV's
- 47 Emerald Isle
- 49 Jog
- 52 Jamie -
- 54 Guido's high
- 57 Compass
- 58 Russell ID
- 60 Printer's measure

