

Dhaka Day by Day

Thursday's children

by Sabah Chowdhury

Children 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



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 wore 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-patti, 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

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 Moula, 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.

ML wants rule of law

By Staff Correspondent

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



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 H. 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 caucus.

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 Hasan will be observed by 'Artist Kamrul Hasan Oithaya 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. Iafuddin Ahmed, Presidential Adviser for Culture will be the chief guest.

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.

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

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 Bangladeshi soldiers from Saudi Arabia immediately.

The Movement, Tejgaon 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.

Transit facilities to enclaves

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 Shilpkala Academy Auditorium Wednesday.

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

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

Kalim Sharaf 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. Nazmul Huq, Lion District Governor M. Abdul Malek and Lion Region Chairman Lt. Col (Retd) Hesamuddin Ahmed.

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

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 caucus.

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 Hasan will be observed by 'Artist Kamrul Hasan Oithaya 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. Iafuddin Ahmed, Presidential Adviser for Culture will be the chief guest.

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.

Metropolitan

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 Khafji, 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.

Replies 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 Sheikdom.

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 Badda 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 minibus head-on collision near Joykali Mandir, died this morning.

Shahjahan, an employee of Janata Bank Nadimuddin Road branch, was brought to the DMC 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 Mitford 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 Kathuria 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 pledge bound to build up economic infrastructure of the country through realistic planning of equal-distribution of resources.

They addressed two election meetings at Duhajara 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 (Bhaisan) candidate in the coming Parliament elections from Dhanmondi-Mohammedpur (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 (ISA) 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. 2092, 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 ISA Advisory Board. Former Foreign Secretary and ISA Advisory Board Chairman Mr. Tabaruk Iossain 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 Hasan 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.

SIPHSA meet

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

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather is likely to prevail over the country till Friday morning. The night temperature rose by one to three degrees Celsius at most places over the country Thursday night and is likely to rise further by one to two degrees Celsius Friday night, Meteorological Department said.

Outlook for subsequent two days: No marked change.

Extended outlook for another five days: Little change. The lowest temperature in Dhaka city was recorded at 15.7 degrees Celsius while the country's lowest temperature 9.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Srimongal.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 5:45 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6:40 pm.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns of the country on Thursday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius Percentage	Maximum	Minimum	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.6	15.7	81	54	60
Chittagong	26.8	14	78	56	