

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Colouring in the Magic

Abdur Rashid who works for 8 hours a day, till five in the evening, does not labour on a daily basis. At the most he will put in 15 days a month, as there is not enough work to keep him employed in the carpet shop. For the rest of the 15 or 20 days Abdur Rashid is a rickshawpuller or even a cart puller.



Abdur Rashid and his assistant reconditioning a worn-out carpet. —Star photo

There are three other workers like Abdur Rashid at the Shegunbagicha shop where jute carpets are washed, repaired and coloured. A designed carpet 15 feet by 12 feet will be renovated for Tk. 1080. The way painting is done the carpets remain glossy and fresh for an extra 3-4 years.

Abdur Rashid, 42, takes to repainting and renovating carpets to earn the extra taka.

"First we beat and get rid of the dirt for about three hours. Next we clean it with soap powder. When the carpet is dry we begin the painting. A carpet may take 20 tolas of paints. This is bought at the Chowk Bazar. We use mostly red, blue or green paints," informs Abdur Rashid.

Mohammed Raju, 22, who has been working on carpets for 10 years and has learnt his trade from Alam and Sons in Chittagong, adds: "For our work we use Indian brushes that last for two months. In two months we renovate about 10 carpets, using

up at least eight brushes." The carpets that are sent to be renovated and brightened usually come from homes, but they sometimes also come from commercial places. "It usually costs Tk 648 per large carpet and Tk 90 for the small rugs. We charge Tk 6 per square feet for the patterned carpets and Tk 4 for the plain ones. Rugs can come as small as 3 feet by 5 feet," Raju says.

It takes three months to learn jute carpet painting. We have to have a special talent for it. Abdur Rashid has been working on carpets for 3 years. He earns Tk 60 a day, the days he gets employment. He sleeps in the small shed that serves as a shop. "I send home Tk. 500 a month. But this is just not enough for my wife and five children. One of my sons studies at the intermediate stage. I must pay for his formal clothes and tuition fees too," says Abdur Rashid.

Rashid is not the only one who works but has no savings. Raju (the entrepreneur, who owns one of the nine carpet shops at Shegunbagicha, has no savings either. At the end of the month he gets Tk 3000. Of this he has to give Tk 1000 to his house. His meals at the shop cost Tk 600 a month while his rickshaw fare comes to Tk 12 a day. He is worried about how he will pay his children's school fees once it is time for them to go to school.

One commits suicide

Nur Hossain (25), a truck labourer died in Dhaka at Mitford Hospital on Tuesday after taking poison, reports UNB.

According to hospital sources, Nur Hossain went to the house of his father-in-law at Bikrampur and took poison in an attempt to commit suicide on Saturday.

Local doctors washed his stomach and later he was admitted to the hospital on Monday evening.

The reason for committing suicide was not clear, family sources said.

The body was sent for autopsy and a case has been registered with the Kotwali police.

16 gets Bhasani gold medals

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Kristi Sangsad has announced the names of the recipients of 'Moulana Bhasani Gold Medal', 1991.

Sixteen persons who received the medal this year are: Dr. Serajul Islam Chowdhury (Education), Shamsur Rahman (Poetry), Khondaker Shahadat Hossain (Journalism), Mustafizur Rahman (Banker), M. A. Karim (Journalism), Abdur Rahman (Lyrical), Ramendu Majumder (Theatre Organizer), Engineer A. K. M. Abdul Mannan (Islamic Researcher), Mamunur Rashid (Dramatist), Professor Hassan Abdul Qayum (Bhasani Researcher), Asaduzzaman Noor (Acting), Mansur Joarder (Music Composer), Dr. Mirja Al-Mahmud Manik (Medicine and Service), Jinnat Ali (Social Service), Abu Nasrat Rahmatullah (Children's Organizer) and Nazrul Islam Khan Badal (Social Service).

The prizes will be distributed on February 15 in a function organised in connection with 'Amar Ekushey'.

Bangladesh Kristi Sangsad has decided to award Moulana Bhasani Gold Medal every year.

Shahabuddin greets NZ Prime Minister

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Tuesday felicitated James Brendan Bolger, Prime Minister of New Zealand on the occasion of its National Day, reports BSS.

In a message of felicitation Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed hoped that the existing friendly relations between our two Commonwealth countries would be further developed and strengthened in the years to come to the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

Justice Shahabuddin wished the friendly people of New Zealand continued peace, progress and prosperity.

Hasina's remarks on Khaleda refuted

BNP leader Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar Tuesday described as travesty of truth certain remarks made by Sheikh Hasina about Begum Khaleda Zia, parliamentary elections 1986 and the famine in 1974, reports UNB.

In a press statement, the BNP Secretary-General contradicted Hasina's remarks which blamed Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed, late President Ziaur Rahman and former Food Secretary Abdur Momen Khan for the famine in 1974.

Salam Talukdar questioned if these people were responsible for famine in 1974 why Sheikh Mujib did not put them on trial for causing deaths of lakhs of people.

Why Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed, then Commerce Minister in the Sheikh Mujib government, was not dropped from the cabinet and why Zia and Momen were not dismissed from their services, Talukdar asked of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

The BNP leader said Sheikh Mujib knew it full well that his partymen, black marketeers, hoarders and smugglers were responsible for '74 famine in the country.

On Hasina's comment that BNP leader Begum Zia stayed away from the 1986 parliamentary polls to help Ershad prolong his stay in power, Talukdar said it was in accordance with the decision of the 7-party and the 15-party alliances that they would not join any elections by keeping Ershad in power.

Sheikh Hasina announced at a public meeting at Laldighi in Chittagong that those who will participate in that elections would be branded as national traitors, Talukdar said, adding that Hasina identified herself as national traitor by taking a decision in favour of elections the next day.

He said Sheikh Hasina gave

AI's plea to protect human rights

Amnesty International has called on all candidates in Bangladesh's forthcoming parliamentary elections to take steps to protect human rights if they come to power, reports BSS.

"Reforms must be introduced to avoid a recurrence of the torture, extra judicial executions and arbitrary detentions which occurred in the past," the London-based organisation said.

"Protecting human rights is a fundamental part of government policy which all the candidates must consider and make their views known on," the organisation said.

In an open letter to all parties, released in Dhaka to the press, Amnesty International called for the ratification of international human rights instruments and for an urgent review of existing powers of

administrative detention.

The authorities presently have broad powers to detain people simply for their non-violent beliefs and to deny fair trials to political prisoners by using the administrative detention laws," the AI said.

Amnesty international said there should be a review of the cases of prisoners currently detained under administrative detention laws. The cases of prisoners convicted by martial law courts which breached international standards for fair trials should also be independently reviewed.

The organization also called for safeguards against torture to be introduced and for the future government to ensure that all reports of torture are promptly investigated and that those responsible are brought to justice.

"Numerous prisoners have

been tortured in custody over the years in Bangladesh and every year several deaths apparently resulting from torture are reported," Amnesty International said.

"Yet we are not aware of a single case in which the government has brought criminal proceedings against those allegedly responsible."

The organization is called for safeguards to be introduced against extrajudicial executions, for investigations into those which have reportedly been committed and for the abolition of the death penalty.

"Implementing these reforms will not only demonstrate the government's resolve to protect human rights but ensure that successive governments will be bound by international law to guarantee such rights," Amnesty International said.

People can't forget JP works: Mizan

Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said in Dhaka Monday that Jatiya Party could not be suppressed by framing new charges everyday against Ershad or conspiring to cancel his nomination, reports BSS.

He said the people could not forget the welfare-oriented works done by Jatiya Party during its rule.

Mr Chowdhury was addressing leaders and workers of 'Ershad Mukti Parishad' who came to meet him led by convenor of the Parishad, Amjad Hossain.

Mr Chowdhury said there was no end of conspiracy against Jatiya Party. "Our chairman has been detained through a conspiracy because of his great popularity, secretary general has been jettied with ill health, motivated warrants have been issued against other leaders, even properties of some of them have been attached," he said adding news of Jatiya Party was not telecast or broadcast.

Museum in name of Zobeda proposed

Speakers at a memorial discussion Monday paid rich tributes to Mrs. Zobeda Khanam and recalled her remarkable contributions to the development of juvenile literature, reports BSS.

They proposed naming a library or a museum after Zobeda Khanam. A cultural function based on the composition of Zobeda Khanam was also held.

"Zobeda Khanam was a worthy successor to Begum Rokeya in awakening the womenfolk" the speakers said in the discussion in observance of the first death anniversary of Zobeda Khanam, an established juvenile writer and former Chairman of Bangladesh Shishu Academy.

The discussion, held at Ziaur Rahman Auditorium under the joint auspices of Bangladesh Shishu Academy and Zobeda Khanam Smriti Sangsad, was attended by Presidential Adviser, Mr. Alamgir M. A. Kabir as the chief guest.

Justice Ruhul Islam presided over the function while Dr. Nilima Ibrahim, Advocate M. A. Bari, Dr. Hafizur Rahman, son of Zobeda Khanam Major General Manar, daughter Begum Hosne-Ara Khondaker Bulbul, Golam Kibria and Nazmul Alam took part in the discussions.

The Adviser, in his speech, said the literary works of Zobeda Khanam are our assets, especially for the children.

Richness leads our life to

become idle, but struggle gets the immense majesty in our life which is the basic theme of her writings, Mr. Kabir added.

He also recalled her contribution to establishing the Shishu Academy in different districts of Bangladesh for expanding the children's extraordinary activities through the Academy.

Later, Mobarak Hossain Khan, Faquzzaman Chowdhury and Prof. Maqbul Manzur discussed her book, 'Jiban Khatar Pathagulf'.

Diplomats entrusted with noble responsibility

Presidential Adviser on Foreign Affairs, Fakhruddin Ahmed stressed the need for further improving the standard of foreign service so that Bangladesh's diplomats could earn bigger fame abroad, reports BSS.

He said the foreign service officials were entrusted with a noble and onerous responsibility to project the nation in its true perspective and attain laurels for the country.

The Adviser was awarding the certificates to a group of fresh officials of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Foreign Affairs) at the Civil Service Academy in Dhaka.

The officers undertook a training course for nine months in the first such a course.

Establishment Secretary, Hiasnur Rahman presided over the occasion which was also addressed, by Director General of the Academy, Dr. Fazlul Hiasun Yusuf.

The Adviser said each of country's diplomat was a national ambassador abroad and he must perform his job keeping this fact in his mind.

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury (seated centre) with recipients of Haji Mohammad Mohsin Gold Medal 1997. The medal was given at a function at the Soviet Cultural Centre in city on Tuesday. The recipients were Dr. Muhammad Yunus (rural development and banking), Rahat Khan (literature and journalism), Narayan Chakravorty (acting), M. S. Bashar (author of books on economics), Yusuf Sharif (novel), Shah Mohammad Bakht Chisty (composer of Islamic songs), Abu Nasrat Rahmat Ullah (journalism), Abu Saleh (rhyme), Hassanur Rahman (children's literature), Mohammad Kalimullah (social reform), Abdul Awal Proshan (culture), Mohammed Ali (social service), Ranabir Roy Chowdhury (social welfare).



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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Last film for Sammy Davis
- Traffic sign
- Explosion
- Cause
- Eagles' nests
- Negative prefix
- Drugges
- The sweetsop
- Vessel
- Wash cycle
- Exist
- Corrected
- Seed
- Tibetan priest
- Halt
- Down: prefix
- Bancroft ID
- Child's favorite spot
- Caspian
- Asner ID

DOWN

- Myself
- Concept
- Hazard; venture
- Antlered animal
- Colored lines
- "Dr..."
- Is it
- 53 Irate
- Miserable fallure; coltoq.
- 58 Lift
- 60 Maiden loved by Zeus
- 61 Recompense
- 63 Occupant
- 65 British
- 66 Movie alien
- 67 Petition
- Web-footed bird
- Martin ID
- The "Field"
- 17 Young boys
- 20 Scottish cap
- African country
- 8 Bedouin
- 9 Locations
- Follows egg
- 12 Martin ID
- 14 Spielberg ID
- 17 Young boys
- 20 Scottish cap
- 24 African country
- 8 Bedouin
- 9 Locations
- Female deer
- Poems
- 25 Female deer
- 28 Crippled
- 30 Son of Adam
- 32 "Empty Nest"
- 36 Commercial
- Kind of firecrackers
- Lavish
- 42 Solo
- 44 Doctrine
- "Father — Best"
- 48 Type style
- 49 Item of property
- 51 Semi-precious stone
- 54 Japanese aborigine
- Lavish fondness on
- 56 French: abbr.
- 57 Maui symbol of affection
- 59 garde
- 62 Concerning
- 64 Equally

Answer to Previous Puzzle

SPAREM BREAD
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 BEDS LOSE ONE
 REAMS NEXT ER
 MEAL DIRE
 AS ELANTIBER
 ROE TROT POSE
 MATS DOESNT
 OR CRENATE AB
 REPAIR SALUTE
 DORMS EGTTEE

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 15 16 17 18
 19 20 21 22
 23 24 25 26 27 28
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BFUJ meet tomorrow

An emergency meeting of the available members of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) in Dhaka will be held on tomorrow (Thursday) at 10 a.m. to discuss the wage board award situation, a BFUJ press release said Tuesday, reports BSS.

The Presidents and General Secretaries of Bangladesh Sangbadptra Press Samik Federation and Sadharan Karmachari Federation have been requested to attend the meeting.

Bangla Academy presents only 74 books in fair

By Shahzad Monzu

Bangla Academy is going to present only 74 books published from last March in the Ekushey book fair to be held from February 5 to February 25. The number of publications is half compared to last two years' publications. Bangla Academy will fail to fulfil its goal not only in publications but in its all development works including research for the session 1990-91, Academy sources said.

They said that being deprived of the government allocated money for last three fiscal years, the Academy failed to achieve its target.

Bangla Academy is yet to receive any instalment allocated under the budget of the Fourth Five Year Plan, began several months ago. The Academy received only Taka 26 lakh as development budget in the last fiscal year 1989-90. The total budget of the year was Taka one crore six lakh.

For the last few years the Academy was not given the full amount of money allocated for its development work.

In 1988-89 and 1987-88 fiscal years the Academy got Taka 62 lakh 50 thousand and Taka 75 lakh 50 thousand respectively.

The expenditure for Ekushey book fair has been estimated at Taka nine lakh which is one lakh 50 thousand less than that of the last year. Although the arrangement of this year which include 182 stalls similar to last year.

An official of the Academy said that they appealed to the Acting President 26 lakh for the publication purpose in the Ekushey book fair and they were now waiting for approval.

He also said if his department receive minimum Taka six lakh he would be able to publish at least 11 books more of which the manuscripts are ready.

However, the organisers said that they would take step to avoid untoward incidents that took place over last few years. Of the measures the gate would be enlarged breaking the boundary, an organiser informed.

Rally of Khabar employees to fulfil demands

The workers-employees and working journalists of four weeklies of the Khabar group, in a rally at the Khabar Bhaban Monday demanded fulfillment of their demands, reports BSS.

The workers-employees and journalists cautioned the management that they would withdraw their earlier decision postponing action programme, if their demands were not met by February 10.

PROGRAMME Editors' confce

The centre for 'Sustainable Development' will hold a one-day conference of the Editors of national dailies in Dhaka tomorrow (Thursday).

Advisor to Social Welfare, Women, Youths and Sports Mr Alamgir M A Kabir will inaugurate the conference, the first of its kind in the country, at the Press Club auditorium at 9 am.

ADAB press confce

A press conference of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) will be held tomorrow (Thursday), at the VIP room of National Press Club at 4 pm, says a press release.

ADAB Executive Committee members will address the conference.

Seminar on development

The fifth national conference and seminar of Bangladesh Sociology Association will be held today (Wednesday) at 9-30 am at the TSC auditorium of Dhaka University.

The main topic of the seminar will be "Development in the Third World."

Cultural Affairs Adviser Prof. Iazuddin Ahmed will be the chief guest while Prof. Mohammad Moniruzzaman Mia, Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University will be the special guest at the function.

Rotary Club meet

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held today (Wednesday) at 5-30 pm at Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka.

World Sufi Confce Feb 8

By Staff Correspondent

A one-day World Sufi Conference will be held in Dhaka on February 8 in observance of the 81st anniversary of birth of Syed Abul Fazal Sultan Ahmed under the auspices of Dewanbagh Pak Darbar Sharif.

Sufis from around the world will attend the conference to be held at the premises of Motijheel T and T College and School after Juma prayer on the day. Moulana Mahub-akhoda Dewanbaghi will receive the sufis from different countries.

TV Wednesday

- 5-00 Opening
- 5-15 Spandan : Variety for children
- 5-45 Sports programme
- 6-10 Meyeer Jonney : Hayer for the mothers
- 6-55 News in Bengali
- 7-05 Netun Shilpider Asor : Songs programme
- 7-25 Sangbad Parikrama : Current affairs
- 7-45 Programme summary
- 8-00 News in Bengali
- 8-30 Dance programme
- 9-00 Film : Macgyver
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Oitthya : Folk songs
- 11-30 News.

Weather Temperature falls

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with cloudy sky is likely to prevail over Bangladesh on Wednesday. The temperature on Monday night fell by one to four degrees celsius at most places over Bangladesh and is likely to fall further by one to two degrees at night.

On Tuesday, rain or thunder shower occurred at most places over Khulna division and at many places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions. Weather remained mainly dry over Rajshahi division. Chief amounts of rainfall recorded are — Srimongal three centimetres, Faridpur, Sylhet, Feni, Khulna, Satkhira, and Barisal two centimetres each, Mymensingh, Bhola, Patuakhali one centimetre each, Madaripur, Hatiya, Sitakundo and Rangamati half centimetre each.

Out look for subsequent two days : bad weather likely. Extended outlook for another five days : little change.

The lowest minimum temperature recorded in Dhaka on Tuesday was 15.3 degrees Celsius while the country's lowest temperature 11.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Srimongal, Dinajpur and Mymensingh.

The temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns of the country on Tuesday were :

Cities/town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Maximum	Minimum	9 a.m.	6 p.m.
Dhaka	26	15.3	95	62
Chittagong	27.6	16.3	83	77
Rajshahi	25.4	14	100	77
Khulna	26.6	14.4	100	68
Barisal	26	14	88	78
Rangpur	23.1	14.6	88	71
Dinajpur	24	11.5	87	68
Mymensingh	25	11.5	85	70
Comilla	25	14	89	70
Cox's Bazar	28	18.5	74	58



Mrs. Thelma De Leeuw, President of the Soroptimist International (2nd from right) with Dhaka Soroptimist Club members during her five-day visit in Dhaka. —Star Photo

Utara (Provisional)

The first regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Utara (Provisional) will be held today (Thursday), at 5-30 pm at Blue Diamond Restaurant, Utara.

Dr. Altimullah Mia will speak on WCS and IPAC.