

Dhaka Day by Day

No Time for Ennui

by Fayza Haq

Do foreign wives, accustomed to the life of the cosmopolitan cities of the world, find it irksome and claustrophobic in Dhaka? Certainly not, judging by their remarks at a tete-a-tete.

Busha (Sandra) Chindawongse, the wife of the Ambassador of Thailand, due to leave Bangladesh next month, says she will have wept three times because of her association with Dhaka. "I was initially so depressed at the idea of coming to a place with rampant poverty and overpopulation. But having come here and lived here with the warm and hospitable people I truly regret leaving them. They have given me so much of friendship and understanding," says Sandra, as she is known to her friends.

for the women in Bangladesh."

Hestia is another person wrapped up in social work. Back home she is involved in "Dharma Wanita" which forms an integral duty for the wives of civil servants in Indonesia. Here too she works for charitable causes.

There is a lot of similarity between the lives of the Indonesians and Bangladeshis, Hestia believes. "The religion is the same. We too are rice and fish eaters. We have a Sanskrit background as well and use words in our vocabulary like 'prodhana', 'uttara' and 'stri'. In certain parts of Indonesia it rains in the same way as it does in Bangladesh," she says.

She is a proud grandmother of two children and a mother of three.



Sandra Chindawongse Hestia Soemakna

"When I'll be at the new post in Sweden I'll surely miss my old Bangladeshi circle and weep yet again. Swedish people are very progressive but they have not the time for you as do people in the East."

Sandra has never been bored or listless for a minute while in Dhaka. She filled her days with aerobics, painting classes, German lessons, bridge, tennis and for a while, golf. She did a fair amount of charity work for handicapped children. She helped the Zonta Club and the WVA. She was very excited about the prospects of a Thai-Bangladeshi Friendship Association that will commence soon.

Sandra was fascinated with the "Jamdani" but would have found it difficult to look after it abroad. However, she made numerous "shalwar kameez" sets with Rajshahi silk. Her only complaint was the dust that gave her a cold in winter. Sandra is the mother of two grown up children.

Mrs. Hestia Soemakna, the wife of the Indonesian Ambassador, speaking to "The Daily Star" over lunch commented, "I'm interested in all women from various strata of life and not simply the wives of the affluent Bangladeshis. I find it fascinating that two women, Sheikh Hasina and Begum Zia are being nominated as president."

Hestia is an author of two books in Indonesian — the first, a book on human attitude and behaviour, and the second an anthology of short stories. She is at present working on a manuscript on Bangladeshi women and their involvement in politics. "I have great empathy

Beyhan Frnisoghlu was a teacher before she married her diplomat husband, now an ambassador to Bangladesh. She comes from Istanbul and feels there is much more to Dhaka than sweat, grime, struggle and poverty. "Dhaka is not just a city of rickshaws. Rickshaws are there in Hongkong and Thailand. It is a place of rich 'parathas', 'bakarkhanis' and savoury meat dishes", Beyhan insists. "It is like most other cities. The only difference is that there are many more people in this city than you find in most other places," she adds. Easygoing, good-natured and optimistic she plans to enjoy every moment of her stay in Bangladesh.

An ardent enthusiast of Dhaka "nakshi khatas" and brass items is Zaimi Khadija, the wife of the Moroccan Ambassador, who has decorated her home with Bangladeshi objects of art. She has blended them well with her furnishing obtained from Italy.

"I have spent a lot of time in collecting silk saris from Dhaka that I have converted into Moroccan khatas to be embroidered with gold threads," Zaimi says. She is also delighted with the Bangladeshi pink pearl and has quite a collection of her own.

Although Zaimi has access to the usual retinue of servants she herself makes the traditional Moroccan sweetmeats for her guests from honey and almonds.

She naturally treasures her visits home during vacation but is perfectly contented to spend her time in Dhaka. She has a grown-up daughter completing her education in France.

Buyers reluctant to pay full price

Visitors crowding Ekushey Mela

The amor Ekushey Grantha Mela (Book Fair) has been drawing a large number of visitors since it was opened on February 5 at Bangla Academy.

The visitors, mainly students, children, teachers, literary and cultural activists, have been crowding the stalls in the book fair, a major feature of the three-week long programme of the Bangla Academy.

A member of the Book Publishers and Sellers Association

told a BSS Correspondent that the sale condition is better this time than the last two years, but still the buyers are reluctant to pay the full cost of the books on account of price hike.

The books on contemporary politics, language movement, poetry and juvenile literature are among those sold well.

"Razakar Chhara" of Lutfor Rahman Riton is the much-sought after book by the children.

Of the total 199 stalls in the fair, 178 are of books, the rest being of different kinds of tea and snacks, free health services conducted by Shandhani and some voluntary organisations.

Bangla Academy has offered 74 books published since last March in the Ekushey Book Fair.

The number is half compared to the last two years of publications.

Bangla Academy has failed to fulfil its goal not only in publication but also its all development works including research for the session 1990-91, academy sources said.

The expenditure for the publication in this fair has been estimated at Taka 9 lakh which is one lakh fifty thousand less than that of the last year.

The sources further added that Taka six lakh was needed to publish at least 11 books, the manuscripts of most of which are ready.

Meanwhile, the academy has published six volumes of Bengali translation by Maniruddin Eusuf of Shahnama, the Epic poem of Persian poet Ferdousi.

Sutrapur police arrested an alleged gang leader of rickshaw thieves, Anwar Hossain Anu (25), in front of Dhaka Municipal Corporation office at Laksmibazar on Monday.



TV Wednesday

5-00 Openinganno unement
Al-Quran
Recitation from the Geeta
5-15 News in Bangla
5-30 Cartoon film
5-55 Shikshangon
6-20 Natin Din
7-05 Nazrul songs
8-00 News in Bangla
8-30 Samprotik
8-45 Drama serial
10-00 News in English
10-30 Mini series
11-30 News in Bangla
Wednesday's programme
Al Quran, Closing announcement, National flag and Anthem.
11-45 Close down.



Death anniversary of Salam today

The 14th death anniversary of Abdu Salam, former Editor of Bangladesh Observer and first Director General of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), will be observed today (Wednesday), reports BSS.

A Milad Mahfil will be held on this occasion after Asr prayer at his residence 671/A Dhanmondi Residential Area, Road No. 32.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend.

45 Bangladeshis return home

A batch of 45 Bangladeshis returned home on Tuesday from Tehran by a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight, foreign office sources said, reports UNB.

They were among 115 Bangladesh nationals who had earlier crossed the Khoshrab border into Iran from the war-ridden Iraq.

Of them, 24 were flown back home from the Iranian capital a week ago.

About 78,000 Bangladeshis, employed in Iraq and Kuwait, have been evacuated since the occupation of the tiny Sheikhdom by Baghdad on August 2.

Release of Kabir demanded

By DU Correspondent

Vice Presidents and General Secretaries of the hall students unions of Dhaka University in a statement on Monday condemned the arrest of Shafiqul Kabir, Vice President of Salam-Barkat Hall of Jahangirnagar University. They also demanded to release Kabir immediately.

The students unions are of: Muhasin Hall, Surjaseen Hall, Rokya Hall, Ziaur Rahman Hall, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, Salimullah Hall, Fazul Haque Hall, Shamsunnahar Hall, A. F. Rahman Hall and Kuwait-Bangladesh Motree Hall.

Shafique was arrested on February from Barhatta upazila of Netrakona district.

133 smuggling cases filed in 15 days

The Inspector General of Police A. M. Chowdhury Monday directed the district police officials to take every possible measure to recover illegal arms and check decoity, reports BSS.

He said police must mobilise its full force to recover illegal arms and curb all sorts of heinous crimes including decoity, murder and kidnapping. He said the police officials must ensure that no arms be used in the coming polls anywhere in the country.

Immunization target yet to be achieved

An internationally supervised National Coverage Survey found that Universal Child Immunization (UCI) was achieved for all six antigens in Rajshahi division and for BCG in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The UCI target was to fulfil 80 per cent children of 12 to 17 months age under the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) by 1990 but it could not be achieved.

The survey was released on Tuesday at a seminar on "Child rights and Role of Mass Media", jointly arranged by Centre for Sustainable Development and Visions in cooperation with Radda Barnen at the Jatiya Press Club.

The survey said that UCI programme only exceeded BCG achieving 86 per cent but immunization for DPT-3 and

Measles could not attain 69 and 65 per cent of the target respectively.

Giving a breakdown of the success in immunization the evaluation survey said: In Rajshahi BCG, DPT-3 and Measles attained 97, 85 and 82 per cent of the targets respectively.

In Khulna division BCG, DPT-3 and Measles achieved 88, 68 and 70 per cent respectively.

In Dhaka division BCG, DPT-3 and Measles achieved 84, 66 and 57 per cent of the targets respectively.

In Chittagong division BCG, DPT-3 and Measles achieved 75, 57 and 55 per cent of the targets respectively.

The UNICEF, SIDA and WHO independently supervised the survey from January 26 to February 5 this year.

The EPI goals for the 1990s are: Eradication of Polio by the year 2000, virtual eradication of Measles and neo-natal tetanus and reduction by one third of young child mortality.

The seminar was addressed by UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh Cole P. Dodge, New Delhi Representative of UNICEF John Rudy, Dr. Latif Rahman Talukder, Rohnuz-zaman Khan Dada Bhai, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Rozalin Kosta, Saleem Samad and Mahfuzullah.

Speakers said that immunization results have been more impressive with coverage jumping from 18 per cent in 1988 to 50 per cent at the end of 1989 and June 1990 returns indicate 70 per cent coverage for Measles and DPT-3.



The 21st batch of Rajshahi Cadet College with (from left) Ehsanul Kabir, General Secretary of the Old Boys Association, Prof Shamsul Haque, former Foreign Minister, Muhiit, President of the Association, Amanullah Kabir, Secretary-General of IBFJ and Shamsul Kabir, Vice-President of the Association at a function at National Press Club on Tuesday.

Anti-war rally Friday

Bangladesh Muslim League will hold a rally after Juma prayer on Friday demanding immediate stoppage of Gulf war, reports UNB.

The rally will be held at the southern gate of Baitul Mukarram National mosque, says a press release.

It will be followed by a procession to be led by party Secretary General Muhammad Foyez Bux Kaderi and other leaders of the party.

Education being affected by terrorism: Prof Huq

By Staff Correspondent

National Professor Muhammad Shamsul Huq on Monday urged all to help create an atmosphere conducive to overall development of education.

Addressing the founding anniversary of the Old Rajshahi Cadet Association he said free atmosphere which is needed for culture of knowledge was being affected by terrorism on the campus for some time.

He hoped that education would get the highest priority after the election when the democratic process would become stronger and the educational arena be free from terrorism.

He said economic develop-

ment in the advanced countries is the outcome of progress in education. The Asian countries, which are now developing fast are reaping the benefits of culture of knowledge, science and technology. There is no alternative to speedy expansion and improvement of the standard of education if Bangladesh is to develop keeping pace with these countries, he said.

A former Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Huq called for universalisation of primary education and restructuring of education at secondary and higher levels to improve standard. Post-graduate education should be strengthened further to create congenial atmosphere for creative research, he said.

Amanullah Kabir, Secretary General, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists was the special guest at the function organised by the Old Rajshahi Cadet Association at the Academy for Planning and Development.

Presided over by Muhiit, president of the association, the function was also addressed by its vice-president Ehsanul Kabir among others.

Jaker Party to rehabilitate homeless people

By Staff Correspondent

Jaker Party Supreme President member Mostafa Amir Faisal has said, if voted to power, his party will rehabilitate the people rendered homeless by river erosion.

He was addressing a meeting of homeless people of Faridpur district.

22 DU teachers' call to change Gulf policy

By DU Correspondent

Twenty-two teachers of Dhaka University in a statement on Monday called upon the government to change the 'wrong' foreign policy regarding Gulf war.

They said our government and soldiers were continuing to cooperate with the Allied forces in the Gulf as legacy of the deposed Ershad government's subservient foreign policy.

They termed the decision of sending Bangladeshi soldiers to Saudi Arabia as violation of our non-aligned foreign policy and decided to hold a meeting of the representatives of different organisations today.

The statement was signed by Prof Syed Maksud Ali, KM Seduddin, Rangal Sen, Sardar Fazul Karim, Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Meghna Guha Thakurata and others.



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Urs mubarak

A four-day Urs Mubarak of Madhusah will begin on February 14 at the Viti Bishara Dargah Sharif in Nabinagar Upazila under Brahmanbaria district, reports BSS.

The programmes of the Urs Mubarak include waz and milad mahfil, khatme Quran, zikr alkar and distribution of tubarak.

Lohani accorded farewell

Bangladesh Press Institute Officers Association and PIB Employees and Press worker unions accorded a farewell reception to Kamal Lohani, former Director of the Institute. Kamal Lohani has been appointed the Director General of Shilpakala Academy, says a press release.

Presided over by PIB Officers Association President Rafiqul Islam Nasim the function was addressed by Director General Enamul Huq, Kamal Lohani, Shamsul Hussain, Shamsul Huq Akon, Jamal Uddin and Azad.

Bureau of statistics publications

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics have published two publications, "Report of the survey on test relief, 1989" and "Report on the upazila development monitoring project (volume-1)" recently, reports UNB.

Greater Rangpur assoc executive body formed

The first general meeting of 'Greater Rangpur Welfare Association' was held on Friday at Azimur Community Centre in the city, says a press release.

The meeting was presided over by Capt(Rtd.) Siddique Ahmed BU and addressed by Mr. Rezaul Karim Ranju, Mr. Akhlaque Hossain, Abu Md. Shahzaman, Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Kazi Ashraf, Motur Rahman, Shah Md. Abdur Rouf, Dr. Aminur Rahman, Rashidul Alam, Zinul Abedin, Azizur Rahman, Mojibur Rahman, Md. Tahmidul Islam and Mr. Zakul Alam.

The meeting formed new Executive Committee with Capt(Rtd.) Siddique Ahmed BU, Mr. Rezaul Karim Ranju, Mr. Akhlaque Hossain, Mr. Shahzaman, Mr. Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Kazi Ashraf, Motur Rahman, Shah Md. Abdur Rouf, Dr. Aminur Rahman, Rashidul Alam, Zinul Abedin, Azizur Rahman, Mojibur Rahman, Md. Tahmidul Islam and Mr. Zakul Alam.

Later, a cultural function was held which was participated by Khurshid Alam, Rathindra Nath Roy, Fatemuzzohura, Mahbuba Alam, Sharifa Rani and Ruma.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 Wager
4 Close
9 Diocese
12 Simian
13 Choice part
14 Thai man
15 Cash drawers
17 Edges
19 Hawaiian
21 Baker's product
22 Declares
25 Soil
29 Concerning
30 Harvests
32 Roman tyrant
33 Prevent from free speech
35 Faucet
37 Equality
38 Mormon
40 Vapid

Answer to Previous Puzzle

COP OMEGA ETE
AWE GAMES MAY
DESERT TISSUE
FEET AT
BEAT RAT ALBS
OLD DIRECTION
AT TAA ROE NO
STROLLERS SER
TEAR SRI BORE
AL ATTU
PEAHEN ORNERY
ALL NOTRE TIE
PAT STAYS APT

DOWN
1 Cudgel
2 Slender
3 Initial
4 Narrates
5 Coveted
6 Spanish
7 Penpoint
8 Uncanny
9 Haggard
10 Goddess of healing
11 German river
12 Condescending look
13 College official
14 Asterisks
15 Debate
16 Chairs
17 Malice
18 Corded cloth
19 Retinue
20 Quadruped
21 Quarrels
22 Aeriform fluid
23 Struck
24 Flock
25 Arabian commander
26 Pronounces judgment on
27 Rome's country
28 Allowance for waste
29 Headgear
30 Japanese sash
31 Openwork fabric
32 Ocean
33 Goller's need
34 Consume
35 Spanish affirmative



Weather

Light rain forecast

By Staff Correspondent

Met Office forecast light rain, accompanied by temporary gusty wind, at some places of Dhaka Division and the region of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Jessore, Kushtia, Khulna, Noakhali, Comilla and Sylhet during the next 36 hours ending Thursday morning.

Dryweather will prevail elsewhere in the country. Night temperature is likely to remain unchanged.

The night temperature recorded at Dhaka on Tuesday was 30.2 degree Celsius and minimum 18.6 degree.

The highest maximum temperature of the country on Tuesday was 32.2 at Jessore and minimum lowest 14.2 at Rajshahi.

Monday's complex westerly low moved slightly eastwards and lay on Tuesday over eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and adjoining areas. Seasonal low lay over South Bay.

Outlook for subsequent two days: little change extended outlook for other five days: dry weather likely.

Sunsets today (Wednesday) at Dhaka at 5.53 pm and sunrises tomorrow (Thursday) at 6:33 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns were:

	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.2	18.6	68	68
Chittagong	28.0	17.5	68	68
Rajshahi	31.5	14.2	85	56
Khulna	31.2	18.2	91	62
Jessore	32.2	15.5	-	-
Barisal	30.8	18.4	100	80
Dinajpur	30.8	16.4	70	39
Srimangal	29.2	16.8	88	70
Cox's Bazar	28.5	18.0	76	68

Lowest temperature recorded on Tuesday in the major cities of the region were:
New Delhi 11 degree Celsius
Karachi 15 degree Celsius
Colombo 21 degree Celsius
Beijing (-4) degree Celsius