

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

The Warmth Named Iguchi

by Payza Haq

Some people find it difficult to make friends in years. They find language barriers, cultural obstacles, differences in interest and social habits as hindrances to cordial intercourse. But not so with Mr Takeo Iguchi, the outgoing Japanese Ambassador.

While studying Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Oxford in the fifties he met people from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and other Commonwealth and Arab countries. He followed up these acquaintances and friendship many years later in his diplomatic career.

Mr Iguchi, incidentally, comes from a family of diplomats. His grandfather was an ambassador to Paris, while his father represented Japan in Washington, and was the Deputy Foreign Minister during the peace treaty with the allied forces in '51-'52.

Debonaire in his Christian Dior silk tie and matching grey executive suit, he settled deeper into the sofa of his Banani office, reminiscing his Oxford days, his early career and his tenure in Bangladesh. Sipping Japanese green tea from a dainty bowl, with a gorgeous "nakshikatha" tapestry hanging on the wall over his head, he spoke with patience and exuberance, often beaming with apparent paternal warmth, despite his dark hair and flashing even teeth.

During his two year and six months stay in Bangladesh Mr Iguchi felt happy and relaxed in the congenial company of people he had known well for years before. "Among my Bangladeshi friends were people like Kaiser Morshed, and Abu S Ahmed from my Oxford days. There were others like the Padamsees and Hijree, who have had associations with Japan, other than through me. They all made me feel very much at home in Dhaka." The diplomat confides with nostalgia.

Historical places with archaeological remains, like Paharpur, Mainamati, Sonargaon were items of special interest and fascination for Mr Iguchi. Cox's Bazar beach was a place he frequented often. "The golf course in Chittagong is one of the best in South Asia," he remarks. The local hotels like Sonargaon and Sheraton certainly won his patronage. He has travelled a lot in a jeep to see remote rural areas in Bangladesh.

In Dhaka itself the ambassador has given quite a few speeches to the Rotarians, the Lions and such. He had visited Dhaka for the first time as

early as 1970, and was formally concerned with Bangladeshi affairs since '72.

A striking element about the Bangladeshi, according to the diplomat, is their extreme openness of heart. "In the rural areas visitors are offered eggs when such a meal is rare and reserved for parting only once a month. Also seen in the streets of Dhaka is that despite all the overcrowding, pulling and pushing in the buses, people stretch out their hands and take on a new passenger. This helping hand is seen in no other country."

Yet another proof of the Bangladeshi generosity is the custom of giving "zakat", comments Mr Iguchi. He is greatly moved by the habit of giving alms to the poor at the traffic crossings and at houses when beggars knock at the front gate.

Dwelling on the cultural links that Japan has with Bangladesh Mr Iguchi says, "The tradition of the rice-based culture stretches from the Ganges to Japan. On the other hand, there is the wheat belt that extends from the Indus to Egypt. Another

fact we have in common is that we are fish eaters. The four-legged animal is too expensive for both Japan and Bangladesh. Yet another cultural link is Buddhism. It has travelled to Japan from this part of the world."

He also finds the melancholic notes of Tagore music similar to classical Japanese stringed instrumental productions. In the same way he sees resemblances of the Japanese dance.

—Star photo Bangladeshi dance steps in the order type of Japanese dance. The Japanese language itself is similar to Tibetan, which goes back to Sanskrit, which is the basis of the Bengali language," he reminds.

The ambassador believes that population control is the most overwhelming ordeal that Bangladesh is facing. "It is the sense of uncertainty of the health of the children that leads to more children and thus ensues the unhappy cycle," he comments. He has great respect and admiration for the working women of Bangladesh, specially those of middle and lower classes.

A father of three grown boys, Mr Iguchi has time for lyrical poetry despite his hectic schedules. Here are some lines on the subject of Bangladesh: "Ancient land of rivers and plains,

With human heart like the expansive river
No torments, whirls and waves may conquer,
The indomitable spirit of the golden nation."

Shaheed Minar gets final touches

Ekushey February is being observed this year with a significance, rare in the history of this nation, on the eve of the much-awaited free and fair general elections on February 27 following the overthrow of the nine-year rule of autocracy, reports BSS.

The occasion, arousing deep emotion, will be observed in a devout, solemn spirit by the nation paying homage to the memories of the martyrs and through holding literary, cultural and social events.

The nation fondly remembers every year the heroic sons who fell to the police bullets this day 29 years ago to establish the rightful place of Bangla in the then erstwhile Pakistan.

The memories of Barkat, Salam, Rafiq, Jabbar and others who shed their blood

for the cause of the mother tongue continue to inspire the people to establish Bangla in all spheres of national life.

Different political, social and cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to pay homage to the martyrs of the Language Movement.

The Central Shaheed Minar is being given final touches for the occasion. The minar will turn into a vast human sea as the clock strikes 12 midnight to night with the people placing wreaths there to show their deep respect to the heroes of the Language Movement.

Many will also visit the graves of some of these heroes at the Azimpur Graveyard.

Like every year, scores of seminars, symposia, cultural functions, etc. will take place across the country in

observance of the "Mahan Ekushey February". Radio and television will put up special programmes highlighting the occasion while the newspapers will bring out special supplements.

Desertification grips North Bengal

By Staff Correspondent

Justice Mostafa Kamal on Sunday said none of the past governments paid any attention to the uplift of North Bengal.

Speaking at a seminar on the desertification of North Bengal at Engineers' Institute he said the government should act to stop the desertification process of the region.

The seminar presided over by Dr Kazi Badruddoza was addressed among others by Professor M. A. Bari, Prof M.A. Zahidul Haque, journalist Alhaj Shams-ul-Huda, Dr Alim Nishat and engineer Abdus Sobhan. It was arranged by North Bengal Development Council, says a Press release.

'Future Govt must be cordial for democracy'

By DU Correspondent

Gias Kamal Chowdhury, former President of National Press Club said the future government must be cordial in implementing the basic rights of the people in order to establish the real democracy. He was addressing a discussion meeting organised by Bangladesh Nagarik Parishad on 'problems and possibilities of democracy in Bangladesh' at the TSC road island of Dhaka University on Tuesday.

He said democracy might not be established without implementing the basic rights of the people.

The meeting was presided over by A.K.M. Abdul Kayum.

They're all imposters!

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested six imposters on Monday evening from Jurain railgate.

The imposters are all former police men. They used to rob people by threatening to arrest the victims.

The arrested are Abdul Malek (30), Golam Mostafa (35), Md Lokman Hossain (35), Md Rezaul Karim (37), Md Abdul Haq (35) and Md Jamal Hossain (35).

Hearing of Moudud's writ continues

The hearing of the writ petition filed by Mr. Moudud Ahmed, a former Vice-President, against his detention, continued for the second day Tuesday before a single bench of the High Court Division comprising Mr. Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury, reports BSS.

Barrister Rafiqul Haq, on behalf of the petitioner, concluded his arguments (Monday). Mr. Aminul Haq, Attorney General of Bangladesh, started his arguments for the state when the court rose for the day.

The hearing resumes today (Wednesday).

Zeena meets Mosharraf in jail

By Staff Correspondent

A brother of Mosharraf Hossain along with his wife visited the former Industries Secretary and his wife Zeena Mosharraf at Central Jail on Monday afternoon, Jail sources say.

Apart from talks in the waiting room Mosharraf had some solitary moments with his brother in the corridor of the main gate of the jail. Slightly pale and wearing a safari suit, Mosharraf was seen smiling while talking. Central Jail sources say.

Zeena, wearing a printed cotton saree and a red shawl, walked past the corridor and went inside the room escorted by a female warden. Plain-clothed man was seen guarding both the detainees during the session.

Relatives of former ministers Ruhul Amin Hawlader and Kazi Feroze Rashid also visited them in the same afternoon. Both the former ministers were in good health, the sources said.

JP polluting electoral scene: Jamaat

By Staff Correspondent

Mattur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami, said the Jatiya Party was polluting the electoral scene by distributing ill-gotten money.

He was addressing a meeting at Pabna on Tuesday.

Moulana Nizami said those who disturb the atmosphere of free election will be treated as the associates of autocracy.

Jamaat Secretary General urged the people to remain vigilant against terror during the elections.

Agri commission for fair price soon

The government has decided to establish an Agriculture Commission to draw up a comprehensive price structure for farm products, official sources said on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The Commission, which is due to start functioning the next financial year, was proposed recently to give price support to farmers as well as to ensure fair price of farm produce to the consumers.

It will periodically advise on price policies relating to various farm products to make it consistent to the changing trends of economic indicators. Sources said the main func-



Winners at competition for good handwriting at a function at National Museum on Tuesday. Adviser for Cultural Affairs Prof Iqbaluddin Ahmed and senior officials of the Museum are also seen. —Star photo

Portraits disallowed at Shaheed Minar this yr

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will be the first to place floral wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar at one minute after zero hours in the morning of February 21, to begin the traditional tribute-paying to the martyrs of Language Movement reports UNB.

A press release of the Dhaka University on Tuesday said all preparations for observing the historic day in a befitting manner are at the final stage. No portraits will be allowed

Zillur's call to set up National Art Gallery

A solo art exhibition of artist Rashid Amin was inaugurated by Mr M.A. Razzak, a renowned artist, at German Cultural Centre in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Education Adviser Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui attended the inaugural function as chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, the Education Adviser hoped that the future democratic government would pay due attention to establish a National Art Gallery and patronise arts and culture in the country.

Later, the Education Adviser visited different works of the artist.

A total of 38 paintings have been put on display at the exhibition which will remain open to the public from 10 am to 7 pm every day till February 26.

to be hung from the main columns or the podium of the Central Shaheed Minar.

The decisions were taken on Tuesday at a meeting of a coordination committee for the observance of Ekushey 1991. The meeting was presided over by Chief Coordinator Anwarul Choudhury.

The authorities have also decided not to allow any commercial advertisements, festoons or banners in the areas adjacent to the Shaheed Minar.

Concerned committees and persons have already been directed to complete the fixing of Red Sun at the Minar, drawing of Alpanas, wall writings, lighting and cleaning of the area by 6 pm tomorrow.

To maintain discipline and solemnity during the obser-

vances, Rover Scouts, BNCC, teachers and students, officers and employees will work as volunteers from tomorrow evening till Feb 21 noon.

Special arrangements have been made for Foreign diplomats to pay their tribute from 9 am to 10 am on Feb 21. The diplomats have already been advised to arrive at the Shaheed Minar between that time.

All organisations have been requested to refrain from holding meetings or processions from zero hours to 12.30 am and between 9 am and 10 am on Feb 21.

Meanwhile, the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Maniruzzaman Mia in a statement has requested all concerned to maintain discipline and order during observance of the Shaheed Day.

Bangla on computers now a reality

By Staff Correspondent

A standard code for Bengali and English language computer data exchange in Bangladesh should be decided by the Government within the first half of this year.

This opinion was expressed by speakers at the opening ceremony of an exhibition and seminar for the general public on the use and development of Bangla in computers, held on Monday in Dhaka.

Organised by the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) and a local firm The Computers Ltd., the inaugural ceremony was presided over by Dr. Mahbubur Rahman, Head of the Computer Science and Engineering Dept, BUET. In his opening remarks, Dr Rahman noted that first attempts at Bangla computerisation were conducted in 1983. Much progress has been achieved after that time. The exhibits being shown prove that Bangla on computers is now a reality," he said.

The ceremony was also addressed by the Deputy Director of the Bangladesh Computer Council, Azharul Hoq and the Chief Executive of Onirbaan Group, Jamil Azhar. Azharul Haque discussed

the on-going work of the Bangla Language Implementation Committee of BCC. This committee has been entrusted with the task of defining an appropriate code for information exchange as well as a standardised Bangla Keyboard layout for computers in Bangladesh. The committee is headed by the Vice-Chancellor of BUET, and members include prominent figures from the culture, language and computer fields. Once the standard is established, local programmers can then take full advantage of the inter-networking features possible in computers, he opined.

The objective of holding this exhibition is to inform the general public about the possibilities of computer technology development by local developers in Bangladesh. In addition to encouraging development work, arranging for proper information dissemination is a primary responsibility of BCC, he said.

The exhibition is being held in the Dhaka Metropolitan Scouts Bhavan and will be open 10-5 daily through the 21st February. No admission fee is required.

Education needed for democracy

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting organised by the Bangla Academy on Tuesday said that 'education for all' is the basic need for understanding democracy.

They said real democracy could not be achieved without reading and learning.

The meeting on education for establishment of democratic society was part of series of Ekushey programme of the Academy.

Presided over by Abdul Al-Muti Sharfuddin the meeting was also addressed by Prof. Mamtaz Uddin Ahmad, Prof. Shahadat Ali, Dr. Siddiqur Rahman and Prof. Abdul Kashem Fazul Haq.

In the key-note paper Prof. Abdul Kashem Fazul Haq said the Present social system did not favour establishment of a democratic system.

After the discussion meeting, Nadira Begum, Hafizur Rahman, Sufia Manara, and Kiran Chandra Roy rendered folk-songs.

Today's programme

Bangla Academy will announce the literature award 1990, at its Ekushey programme which will start from 4.30 pm at the Academy premises.

143 lawyers demand release of Ershad

By Staff Correspondent

One hundred forty three lawyers of different district bar associations in a statement issued to the Press demanded the immediate release of ex-President H.M. Ershad and withdrawal of warrant against former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed.

The lawyers said that the government should take immediate measures to release a former President who is now under detention and suffering from illness.

They also demanded the repeal of all black laws including Special Powers Act 1974.

Among the lawyers from Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Comilla, Feni, Dinajpur and Kushtia there are: Barrister Jamal Hossain Bhuiyan, Mridul Guha, Strajul Islam Farooqui, Momin Uddin Ahmed, Mohammed Hossain, Rezaul Haq Chowdhury, Jaynal Abedin Majumdar, and Asghar Ali.

PROGRAMME Anti-drug seminar

A seminar on anti-drug decade of the United Nations will be held on February 22 at 9 PM at Hotel Purbani International under the auspices of Bangladesh Inter-religious Brotherhood Association. The Adviser of the President incharge of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women Affairs and Youth and Sports will be present as the chief guest while Mr. M. Enamul Haq, the Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control and the member on National Board of Revenue will be the special guest and main speaker respectively.

Death anniversary

The fifth death anniversary of Tanvir Ahmed Bipul, the eldest son of K.T. Ahmed, a retired A.G.M. of Uttara Bank will be held today (Wednesday), family sources said, reports BSS.

A milad mahfil has been organised on this connection at the Green Road residence of his father after Asr prayer.

Relations, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Trade
- Face part
- Content
- Filament
- Preposition
- Sched. abbr.
- Bars legally
- Newly ID
- Seine
- Pedal digits
- Stalks
- Audacity
- Faroe Islands
- whirlwind
- Strict
- rigorous
- Mr. Buttons
- Fabulous bird
- Roman gods
- Lockjaw
- Proceed
- Pippen
- for Your Life

DOWN

- Haggard heroine
- Who — That Lady?
- River island
- Guard
- Japanese-American
- Running
- Depot. abbr.
- Vast ages
- Thin coating
- Newspaper paragraph
- Diner sign
- Cole —
- Runs around
- As far as
- Danson and Koppel
- Way out
- Mother's desire
- Dull-witted persons
- S-shaped molding
- String
- Follows Mon.
- Supersonics
- A. usually
- Green Mountain st.
- Nov. of sci.
- Useful
- "Can't — the Music"
- Labor
- Knob
- protuberance
- Inlet
- Parcel o —
- Swag
- Ocean
- Equally

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	I	B	E	L	M	A	D	A	M
D	E	N	O	T	E	A	B	E	L
A	G	Y	O	G	I	W	E	N	T
R	I	A	N	A	M	E	T	E	
E	O	N	S	L	A	V	E	S	A
S	N	O	O	P	M	E	N	I	A
D	R	O	P	R	O	T	S		
B	E	E	T	L	E	S	R	E	S
E	N	S	L	A	P	S	E	A	L
A	A	R	S	L	A	T	E	T	I
S	M	E	E	R	O	L	E		
T	E	N	A	N	T	P	A	R	O
L	A	T	E	R	S	N	E	E	R

Weather

Weather to remain dry

By Staff Correspondent

Weather will remain dry over Bangladesh on Wednesday and the following day with partly cloudy sky at some places. Night temperature remained unchanged on Monday except Chittagong and Chandpur where it rose by two degree Celsius. Temperature will remain unchanged on Tuesday night.

Westerly low persisted over Bihar, Sub-Himalyan West Bengal and neighbourhood.

Outlook for subsequent two days: little change.

Outlook for another five days: no appreciable change. Higher and lowest temperature in Dhaka recorded on Tuesday were 29.8 degree Celsius and 17.0 degree. Sun sets today (Wednesday) at 5:57 pm and sun rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 6:28 am.

Country's highest maximum temperature was recorded at 32.2 degree Celsius in Cox's Bazar and minimum lowest at 10.6 degree at Ishurdi.

Temperature and humidity recorded in major cities and towns on Tuesday were:

Cities/towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.8	17.0	57	48
Chittagong	31.4	17.0	64	56
Rajshahi	31.5	11.2	67	39
Khulna	30.0	14.0	66	47
Barisal	30.0	14.8	69	69
Srimangal	29.3	11.8	79	77
Cox's Bazar	32.2	17.5	50	66

Minimum temperature recorded on Tuesday of the major cities of the region were:
New Delhi 7 degree Celsius
Bangkok 25 degree Celsius
Karachi 13 degree Celsius
Beijing (-7)degree Celsius



Computer enthusiasts being briefed on use of Bangla on computers in the exhibition which opened in Dhaka on Monday.



Brigadier (retired) Dr. Mohammad Yunus Dewan handed over a cheque of Tk. 60,000 to Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Mia on Tuesday for installing a gold medal for research work.