

# Dhaka Day by Day

## In Praise of the Teacup

by Sabah Chowdhury

Once upon a time there used to be only one canteen at the Dhaka University. Famous in history as the "Modhu's Canteen", it became a symbol of students' revolt, burgeoning nationalism and long overdue bills unpaid. Madhu, slain by the Pakistani Army on the night of 25th March, 1971, was in so many ways a representative of an era. The value of that era included sexism. The canteen was an exclusive male preserve. One or two brave souls of the feminine variety may have drunk from the not so clean cups, but Madhu's Canteen belonged to the boys.

If Madhu's domain was politics then Shareef's domain was literature. Housed in a decrepit semi-pucca construction it moved in and around the Public Library, kept going more by patronage than legal rights. And many of today's famous writers first had their inspirations soaked by the tea and bryani of Shareef Miah. But despite all that romantic rhymes and blank verses, no ladies were welcomed. "The Muse was kept at a distance," but since then, that is the early seventies, things have changed.

The Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) was always far more democratic in spirit. Even when the seventies' strident and poetic was in full cry the TSC canteen was one place where the boys and the girls sat together and aside from drinking tea and a trifle fancier snacks from the other canteens helped break such socio-sexual barriers down. It was one place where poets and politicians didn't show up much, drawing the more "mainstream" crowd who didn't discriminate as much as the others did. But it was a signal of things to come.

The situation is very different now. Not only are there a number of canteens including the large one run by DUCSU but the ramshackle tea shops emblematic of the earlier time have all but disappeared. The boys and girls not just mix

together but sit and share refreshments in a free manner. They are not just more cosmopolitan but with interest in fields beyond rhyme and polemics. Their own life style has liberated them. Competing with boys for top exam positions and top jobs in the real world, the girls have vanquished the reason d'être for segregation.

At the level of the teacup it may seem like a teacup but eating together has become just as important as eating itself. Many of the canteens have developed a distinct culture of their own. For example, the one on the TSC Sarak Dwip (road island) is frequented by those who are cultural activists and are often holding a show either inside TSC or on the no less grand main street. The punctured asphalt road is the signature of the arrival of the culture of equality, and boys and girls who drink Cokes or munch on what is locally called Beefburger, a nod to religious values, are practising a culture which is created jointly by all the factors, not least of them, a sense of freedom from designated sex roles imposed by society not wishing to join but now hurled into the future.

Nobody would be shocked if a boy or a girl held hands and walked across the campus today. In most ways it has prevented from a stifling atmosphere to creep through the campus walls. Nor are there any "untoward" incidents which could cause anxiety to parents worried about the "moral state" of freshmen and sophomores. That has been achieved because over a period of time the canopy of freedom and responsibility has been raised at the august institution. And in raising that canopy with a flag flying high the humble teacup which brought the girl and the boy together as equals and sparked off the ideas and feelings of the future played an important role. Vive le teacup!

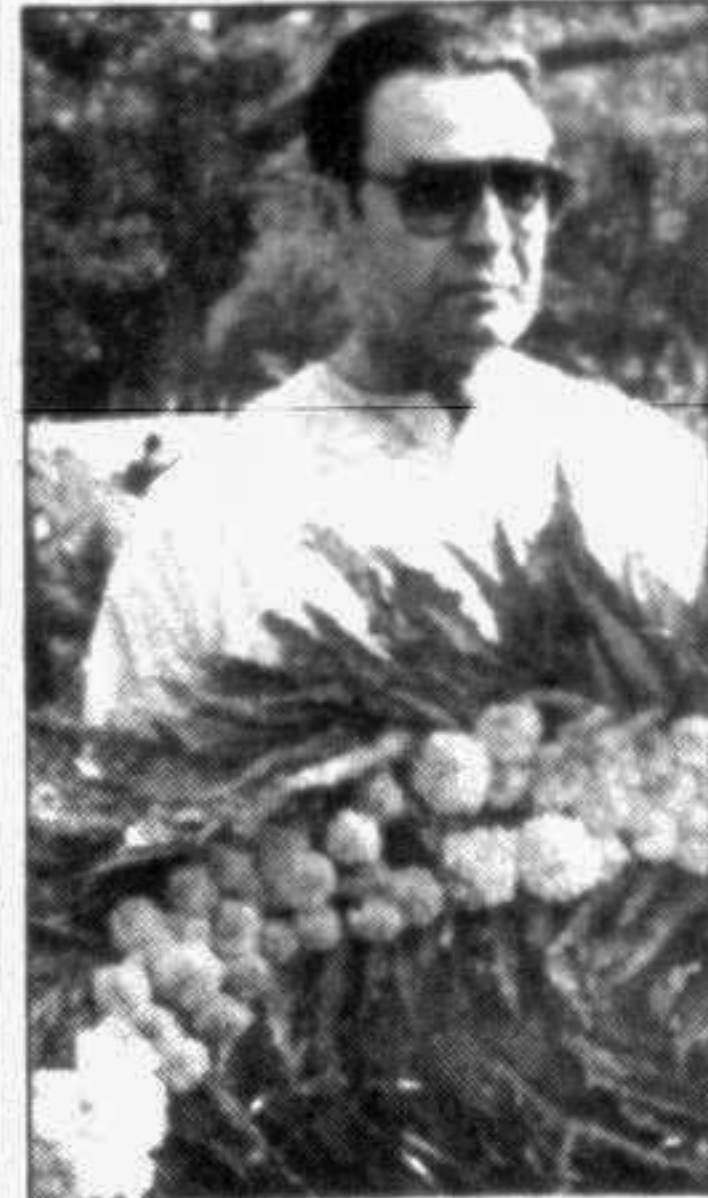


Eating together at the snack-shop on TSC road island. —Photo Raquib Khan

### Diplomats' tributes



US Embassy



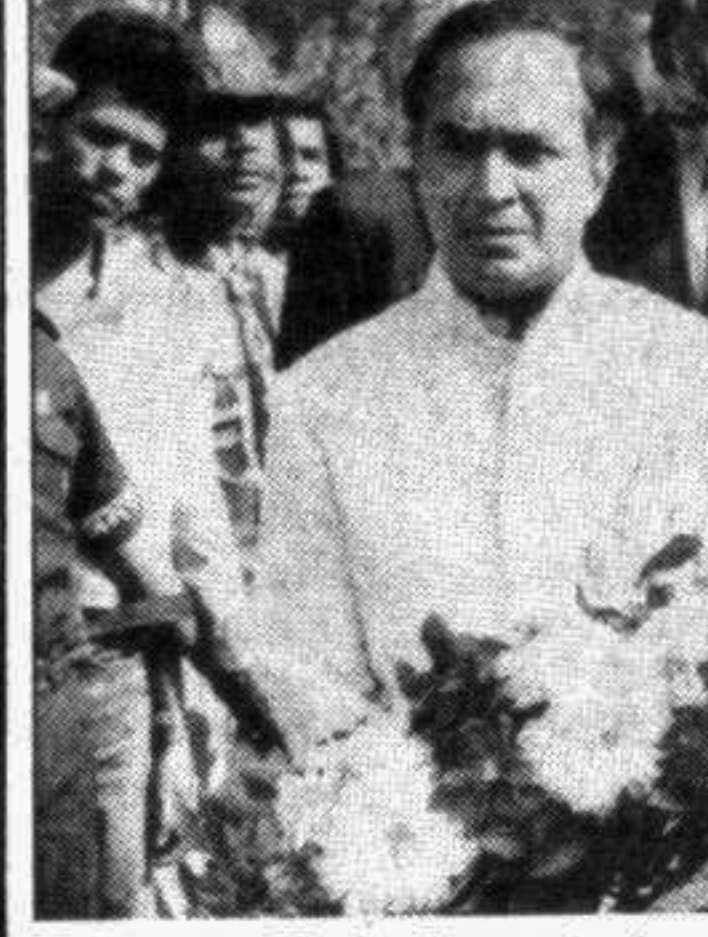
Soviet Embassy



French Embassy



Canadian High Commission



Indian High Commission

## Immortal Ekushey in pictures



PRABHAT FERY - Barefooted ladies in orderly queue for their turn to pay homage to 1952 language martyrs at Central Shaheed Miner at dawn on Thursday.



Disabled freedom fighters



Dhaka University Teachers' Association



Sammilita Sangskritik Jote



Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association



Even an infant does not miss the chance to visit the Minar. Photo: Mohsin and Enam

## 50 slum dwellings gutted in city

By Staff Correspondent

Fire in Dhaka city on Friday burnt two slum areas and caused injury to at least three persons.

About 25 houses were gutted beside Bangla Motor link road at 11.30 am. Dulal (30), Faruq (65), and Shah Alam (28) were injured by electric short circuit. They were ad-

mitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A restaurant, a laundry and a grocery shop were also burnt to ashes. Fire Brigade sources said.

Property worth Taka one lakh was damaged in the fire. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained.

The second incident was reported from Jamalcoat near old Haji camp at Mirpur Section No 14. More than 25 tin-shed houses were gutted in the fire at 11.25 am.

Fire Brigade units rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control soon.

The extent of damage could not be determined.

The cause of the fire also is yet to be ascertained.

### Lawyers polls observers team

The Coordination Council of the Bar Association of Bangladesh has decided to set up a "lawyers parliamentary elections observation team" to monitor the elections on February 27, reports BSS.

The decision was taken to set up the team with Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, Convener of the Council, as its Chairman, a press release said.

The team will have 32 members with the provision of co-opting more members.

A meeting of the committee would be held on February 24 at 4 pm at the Supreme Court Lawyers Association office.

The council expects all co-operation from the government, Election Commission and others in discharging its responsibilities, the press release said.

### 43 cases against vehicles' owners filed

By Staff Correspondent

Police stied 43 cases against the owners and drivers of different motor vehicles for violating traffic rules on Friday.

### BCCMCC meet held

The first meeting of the newly elected executive committee of Bangladesh-China cultural and Mass Communication Centre (BCCMCC) was held on Friday at 30, Btjoynagar (3rd floor) in the city, says a press release.

Chaired by Comrade Nurunnabi, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Major (ret.) Mujibul Haque, Mokhlesur Rahman and Md. Ali Akbar Babul.

In the meeting it was decided that a Chinese film festival will be arranged after Ramzan.



### ESCAP Executive Secretary arrives today

S A M S Kibria, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is due in the capital today (February 23) on a week-long visit to the country, reports UNB.

He will meet the Advisers for Foreign Affairs, Planning, Industries, Works and Shipping as well as senior officials of various ministries during his stay Dhaka, said a press release.

Kibria is expected to address the officials of the Foreign Ministry

### BNP, AL workers clash: several hurt

By Staff Correspondent

Several persons including a policeman were injured when the supporters of Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) clashed each other at Jatrabari area, police said.

The incident occurred when two processions of the parties were passing each other and exchanged hot comments.

Escort police tried to stop the violence. The processionists also damaged a number of vehicles at the Dholaipar and Postogola areas.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

- Stigma
- Dips and throws
- Popeye, e.g.
- Receive with favor
- Grafted: heraldry
- Type style
- Negative prefix
- Mature
- Lingers
- Miscare
- Thalium symbol
- Titles
- Fastener
- Cut
- Leaves
- "Easy"
- Unadulterated
- Evaluates
- "- and

**DOWN**

- Ornamental bracelet
- Ceremony
- Sudly brew
- Bond nemesis
- Visionary
- Badgers
- Performs
- Frozen water
- Snare
- Told falsehoods
- Merchandise
- Foreign
- At no time
- Heats
- Ballots
- Paper measure
- Gift
- Kind of material
- Thoroughfare
- Evergreen trees
- Boring tools
- Locations
- Sounds a horn
- Sharpen
- Toward shelter
- Aeriform fluid
- Female
- Sheep
- Fanzlam symbol
- Rollie ID

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

OPS FRAME TOY  
LIE EAGER ARE  
DENVER TITLES  
AIDED SIL  
EATS RIP NEST  
STEIN NOW ROE  
SO TOP TALL BE  
END WIG SALEM  
DEED GAP BARS  
BIB SABOT  
WEASEL CAREER  
HOT RENTS SPA  
ONE NOOSE TIP

**ACROSS**

- 11
- 14
- 18
- 21
- 24
- 29
- 34
- 37
- 40
- 43
- 47

**DOWN**

- 2
- 5
- 8
- 12
- 15
- 19
- 22
- 25
- 28
- 31
- 35
- 38
- 41
- 44
- 45
- 48

### Businessman killed in city

Alhaj M. Afazuddin Ahmed (60), a businessman of Dhaka Sadarghat Sharif market, was killed Thursday morning by some hijackers near Joykai Mandir, according to police sources, reports BSS.

Alhaj Afazuddin, the proprietor of Amin Textile Mills, came from Chittagong by train and was going to his residence at Banagram lane, Wari, by car at around 6 a.m.

When the car reached near Joykai Mandir, three miscreants in a motor cycle stopped the car and stabbed the deceased on his neck. They decamped speedily by the same motor cycle.

Alhaj Afazuddin was taken to the Mitford Hospital immediately where he expired.

### Arms recovered: 36 arrested

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition and arrested 36 persons in raids last week on different places of the city, according to a DMP press release here Wednesday night, reports BSS.

## Weather

### Weather to remain dry

By Staff Correspondent

Weather likely to remain dry with partly cloudy at places. Night temperature likely to remain unchanged.

Weather on Thursday remained dry. Night temperature remained nearly unchanged except in Comilla, Jessore, Sitakunda where they fell by two degrees Celsius.

The lowest temperature on Friday was 11.5 degree Celsius at Srimangol.

The sun sets on Saturday at 5.58 p.m. and rises on Sunday at 6.26 a.m.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: No appreciable change.

The temperature and humidities of different cities:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity	
	max	min	9 am	6pm
Dhaka	30.8	16.7	44	48
Chittagong	31.2	17	66	60
Rangpur	29.4	12.3	75	48
Rajshahi	31.7	12.9	58	40
Sylhet	29	15.4	71	52
Cox's Bazar	31.6	18.8	60	83
Khulna	32.8	15.6	79	52

The minimum temperatures of some international cities: Calcutta: 19 degrees Celsius Bangkok: 23 degrees Celsius

### '52 language movement sculpture in JU

SAVAR, Feb 22: A sculpture commemorating the Language Movement of 1952 was unveiled at the Jahangir Nagar University Campus on Wednesday morning, reports UNB.

The 34-ft high concrete sculpture, created by Jahanara Parveen, stands in front of the Jahangir Nagar University Cafeteria. It shows a resolute figure of a chanting student standing behind a mother holding collapsing son.

The sculpture was inaugu-

rated by Vice Chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed.

The inaugural function was presided over by Prof. Abul Kashem Chowdhury, and was addressed by Badruddin Umar, Faiz Ahmed, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam, Gaziul Huq, Syed Shamsul Huq, Prof Enamul Huq Khan, Additional Education Secretary Jamil Chowdhury, Akhlaque Rahman and Lt Col (Retd) Zainul Abedin.

### BNP call to vote for nationalists

CHITTAGONG, Feb 22: BNP leaders here last night called upon the voters to give their verdict in favour of nationalist forces to consolidate national independence and restore politics of production, reports BSS.

Addressing two projection meeting at Tailardip and Sattar hat under Anowara upazila last night they said that BNP's political and economic and social programmes aimed at making the nation self-reliant in all sectors of national life including checking of infiltration of alien culture, a party press release said.

Party Central Standing Committee member Dr. A. F. M. Yusuf other leaders Barrister Salimul Huq Khan Milky, Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmad Mirza, Osman Gani Mansur, Advocate Amar Krishan Sen, Abul Kalam Chowdhury, Anowara Constituency BNP candidate Advocate Kabir Chowdhury addressed the meetings.

They also called upon the local administration and members of the law enforcing agencies to recover arms and round up known mastans to ensure a free and fair election.

### Jamaat procession in city

A procession in support of Jamaat-e-Islami candidate for Mottijheel-Sabujbagh (Dhaka-6) constituency Abbas Ali Khan was brought out in city on Friday morning, a Jamaat press release said, reports BSS.

### PROGRAMME AMIE exams Apr 27

The examination committee of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh decided in a meeting held on February 12 that the A.M.I.E Section "A" and Section "B" examination will now be held on April 27 instead of March 9, 1991, says a press release.

The time-table of the examination will be announced later on.

### BSCIC meet on Ekushey

A discussion meeting will be held at the seminar room of BSCIC (Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation) today (February 23) at 2 p.m. to observe 'Ekushey', says a press release.