

Dhaka Day by Day

Dreadful Companions

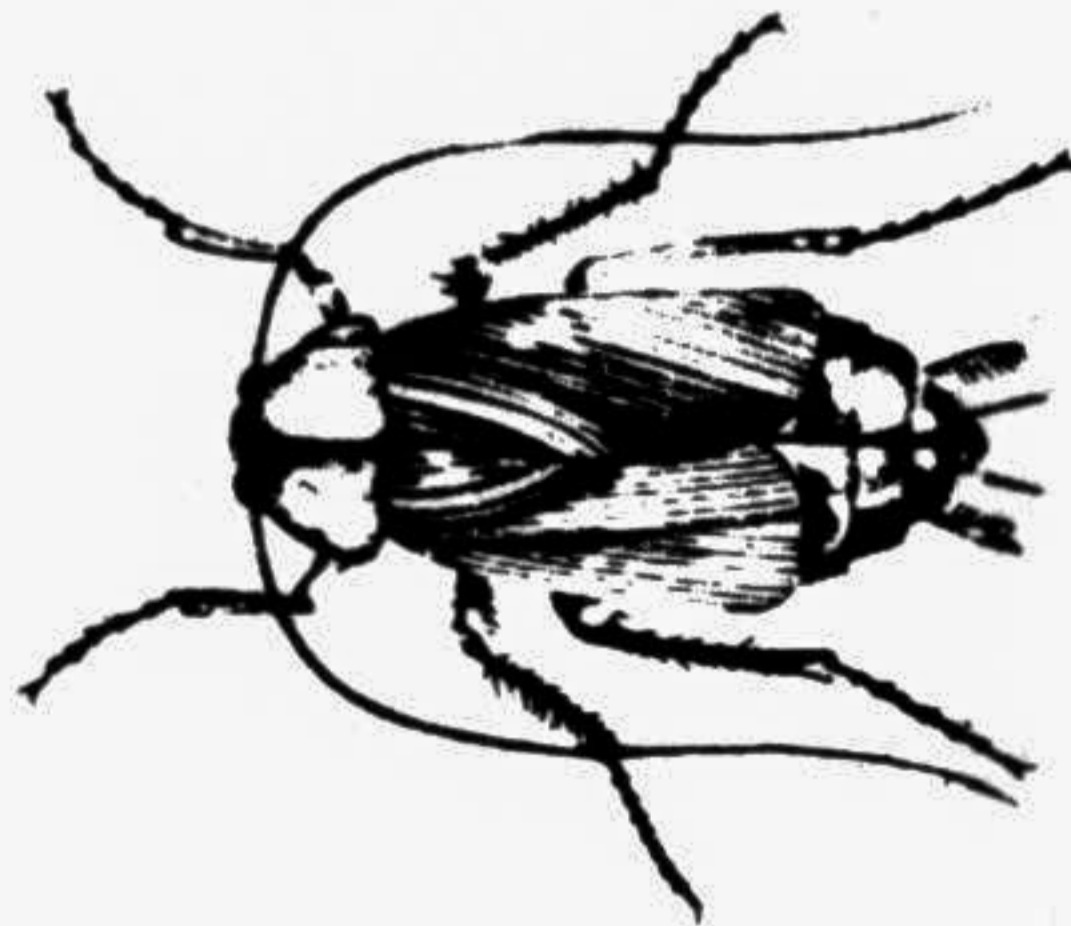
by S. Bari

A friend of mine woke up one day to find a coin-sized round white spot on her scalp where the hair had disappeared. Across town, someone's favorite dopatta had a neat small hole in it. In yet another household, a man discovered his nails were shorter in the morning.

As these mysterious shearings sweep across the city every morning, one question resounds: who is the agent of these delinquencies? The culprit lies hidden in drawers, cupboards, and drainpipes. The city-dweller's source of never-ending disgust

and fear, the cockroach, that little pest that Noah should never have allowed on the Ark.

Billions of cockroaches jostle for space in this city (though an official census is yet to be taken). "If I ever leave this country, it'll be because of the cockroaches," says one housewife. Who hasn't stepped into the bathroom in the middle of the night only to see a brown



The ubiquitous cockroach

spot scuttle away across the floor? Or reached towards a shelf to find one's favorite book punctured with cockroach bites? The ubiquitous insect breeds at a prolific rate and has a special tough wing-case to resist squashing under the hardest of sandals. Colour and markings differentiate sub-species, but they all nibble at the same dangerous rate.

If, there is anything more frightening than a spider creeping stealthily down the wall five inches from your face, it's a cockroach zooming through the dark like a Patriot missile. "It's when they fly that I can't take it," admits one victim. In our

desperation, we spend hundreds every month buying insecticide sprays and mothballs. The owner of a Banani general store said he sells a good twenty-five cans on a busy day. At Tk 140 per can for the more expensive brands, this amounts to a tidy sum for shopowners and pesticide giants. Meanwhile, the affliction does not vanish. The cockroaches grow harder, and our lungs grow weaker.

For those who cannot afford to spend a third of their income on a defence budget against cockroaches, there are the usual home-made remedies.

Unless you like you clothes neatly perforated at strategic points, it's best not to stack them too tightly. Drawers should be kept light and airy. Putting strainers over open drain holes will deter would-be munchers. One insider tip is to put bay leaves in the clothes rather than mothballs. This ensures security, and at the same

time you don't smell as if you were part of King Tut's luggage.

E. M. Forster once wrote that insects in this part of the world did not know the difference between interior and exterior. What is surprising is that no one has yet exploited their domestic cockroaches for export to countries where they are a delicacy. In Bangkok, a trip to the market must include a look at the baskets full of wriggling beasts. Portly Thai matrons sniff critically to judge the quality and freshness. Think of that next time you swear and swat at a potential foreign-currency earner.

AIDS still baffles medical scientists

By Staff Correspondent

AIDS is a disease that plagues and baffles medical experts from US to Africa and the subcontinent. What used to be dreaded plague during the Middle Ages and even at the time of Charles II is today replaced by AIDS.

There are advertisements overseas providing you with all types of information on this sickness from leaflets to TV ads and even Madonna's videos. It is perhaps even more hopeless and incurable than the other dreaded disease, cancer.

Azizul Haq, a CNR staff scientist, and the head of the Laboratories of Cellular Immunology in Protozoan Parasites, was here giving a lecture on AIDS Saturday at the Alliance Francaise. Most of the members of the audience were Bangladeshi doctors who were keen to learn from this expert from the Institute Pasteur in Lille, France.

Speaking about the HIV virus Azizul Haq spoke of how the virus was transmitted by homosexual contact and how it could be spread even by drug addicts who shared the contaminated needle. Polluted blood, touched by AIDS virus can also transfer the disease, he informed the audience.

When children were born to infected mothers the AIDS

can persist despite antibodies one was told. Mr. Aziz also said that perhaps infected insects too could transmit the disease.

Mr Azizul Haq again spoke on scope of medical research in Bangladesh. He dealt with all the subjects with knowledge and simplicity. He used interesting slides.

Red Crescent fund-raising starts in city

The fund raising and membership enrollment drive-91 of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society was launched at a simple ceremony in the city, Saturday, reports BSS.

The Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) Major General (Retd) A. F. M. Abdul Haq formally declared the drive open.

The function was also addressed by Mr. Ekramul Amin, Treasurer and Major (Retd) Ali Hassan Quareshi, Secretary General of the BDRCS.

In his inaugural speech, General Haq Asked the officers, members and volunteers of the society to make the drive a success. He also called upon the philanthropic persons and organisations to make generous donation to the fund of the BDRCS.

Course on potentials of mind ends

A second course on proven techniques to increase the "potentials of your mind," has ended with 42 men and women participating in it, reports BSS.

People from different strata, including a former member of the Parliament, attended the 4-day course conducted by Prof. Ilyam Qazi, who lives in London.

Prof Qazi said the technique shows how to express more of our human potentials and develop training to increase awareness of one's infinite mental faculties.

Former Adviser for Agriculture, Azizul Haq gave away the certificates on Saturday to the participants, who narrated their experiences and benefits.

Prof Hammud will conduct course in Pakistan - his first in May before he comes to Bangladesh to organise his third where people are taking more interest in it.

Prof Mafizul Islam critical

Prof. Mafizul Islam, a veteran parliamentarian, a noted lawyer and a reputed author is seriously ill in his Comilla residence, a message received in Dhaka said.

Once a close aide of former Chief Minister Ataur Rahman Khan, Prof Islam had undergone brain operation last year following a stroke. He was operated upon by Prof. Rashiduddin Ahmed.

New body formed

A 31-member central executive council of "National Association of Diploma Health Technologists" was formed at its first national conference held in Dhaka on Friday, a press release of the association said on Saturday, reports BSS.

Md. Shamsul Azam and Md. Zahirul Islam were elected President and General Secretary of the association while Alamgir Ahmed was elected organising secretary.

TV Programme Sunday

- 5-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
- 5-20 News in Bengali
- 5-30 Hashi-Khushi: Children's Programme
- 5-55 Perspective: Documentary Film
- 6-20 Sports programme
- 7-05 Today's Songs
- 7-50 Today's next programme
- 8-00 News in Bengali
- 9-00 Drama Serial: Ossim
- 9-50 Tomorrow's programme
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Raag Rang
- 11-30 News
- 11-45 Closing

Water supply contaminated in East Rampura

The residents of East Rampura have been using water contaminated by leakage of sewerage into the supply line for about a week, sufferers alleged, reports UNB.

They said the leakage had been caused by renovation work on the sewer line along the East Rampura road, blocking drainage of sewerage from the area.

Courtyards of many low-lying houses have been flooded by stinking water which is mixing with the drinking water supplied by the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA).

Some landlords said they had informed concerned authorities including WASA men, but without any remedy so far. "It's inhuman," said a resident, adding many are complaining of gastro-intestinal and skin ailments for using the rotten water for all household purposes.

Extension of Saudi re-entry visa demanded

Bangladeshis on war-time leave from their employment in Saudi Arabia on Saturday appealed to the authorities for immediate extension of visas, reports UNB.

Nearly 4,000 workers, including female nurses, have been stranded here due to suspension of all commercial flights following the Gulf war, the sufferers told a press conference at the National Press Club Saturday afternoon.

The authorities are delaying the process of extending their re-entry visas, which expired during stay here, they alleged.

Their posts in the Kingdom may not remain vacant for long, they feared and urged the government for necessary steps for their early return to work.

President of the committee Alhaj Mohammed Kalu Bhuiyan and Secretary Alhaj Mohammed Nasiruddin were among others who addressed the conference.

Jyoti Basu greets Khaleda Democracy in Bangladesh to reach newer heights: WB Speaker

The Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Mr Hashim Abdul Halim, said in Dhaka on Saturday night that the people in India, particularly those in West Bengal, heartily welcomed the emergence of democracy in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at a reception held by the Indian High Commissioner Mr. K. Srinivasan, Mr Halim said he was here on a short visit to extend sincere greetings to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Bangladesh Awami League in the new phase of

democracy in Bangladesh.

Mr. Halim, who arrived in Dhaka on Saturday on a day's visit, his first, said that he had a meeting with BNP leader and former Speaker Mirza Golam Hafliz in the absence of Begum Khaleda Zia, who was outside the capital, and with Sheikh

Hasina to convey greetings on behalf of the people and the government of West Bengal.

Mr. Halim represents the South Asia region comprising Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which is holding its five-day executive committee meeting at Guernsey in the Channel Island, UK, beginning March 19. He will attend meeting of CPA and report developments in the wake of emergence of democracy in Bangladesh.

Talking to BSS, Mr Hashim Abdul Halim said that there could not be "any survival without democracy". He hoped that democracy in Bangladesh would reach new heights.

During meeting with Mirza Golam Hafliz, Mr Halim conveyed the greetings of West Bengal Chief Minister Mr. Jyoti Basu, to the BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia.

Mr. Halim hoped that the tenure of Begum Zia as the head of a democratic government would be successful.

Mr. Halim said during his meeting with Sheikh Hasina he told her that as the leader of the Opposition she had a very important role in the functioning of democracy. He highlighted the role of the Opposition saying "importance of opposition is greater than the ruling party in the functioning of democracy."

In reply to a question Mr. Halim, the people had an important role in nurturing democracy "jealously" so that it was rooted and institutionalised.

Mr. Halim told BSS that Guernsey CPA meeting would finalise agenda for the holding of Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference scheduled to be held in the early part of October in New Delhi.



The UNICEF Chief Programme Officer of Communication and Information Neill McKee addressing a launching ceremony of Eid greeting cards in city on Saturday. Seen also (from left) are Dhaka Club President Nuruddin Ahmed, Manzur-e-Mowla, and Delwar Ali Khan. —Star photo

UNICEF launches Eid cards

By Staff Correspondent

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Saturday launched some alluring Eid greeting cards for 1991. The cards will raise money for supporting some underprivileged children programme as well as creating awareness among the people.

At a simple ceremony organised by Dhaka Club, the speakers praised such efforts of fund collecting for the underprivileged children.

Mr Manzur-e-Mowla, Social

Welfare Secretary, in his chief guest's speech said it is possible to improve the lot of the needy children through such efforts.

He said two goals can be achieved through the Eid cards introduced by UNICEF, greeting the dear ones and at the same time helping the needy children with the money.

He lauded the role of Dhaka Club in such social works. He said the members of Dhaka Club will be able to make such movements a success.

Nuruddin Ahmed, President of the Dhaka Club, said the affluent people should remember the unfortunate children on the Eid day and should buy UNICEF cards to help the organisation to carry on its job.

He pledged Dhaka Club's commitment to participate in future campaigns of UNICEF.

Delwar Ali Khan, Senior Programme Officer of UNICEF, said the money collected even from the sale of a single card can help the

life of at least three diarrhoea affected children. He said main killer diseases like diarrhoea, acute respiratory infection etc can be treated at a very small cost.

Neill McKee, Chief Programme Officer of Communication and Information, UNICEF, said the campaign programme through cards not only helps the poor children, it also helps the artists of the developing countries.

Each card costing Taka 13 will be available at all card shops.

Weather

Day temperature will rise

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at one or two places over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Mymensingh, Comilla and Sylhet. Weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere. Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius.

The sun sets on Sunday at 6.08 pm and rises on Monday at 6.05 am.

Weather remained dry over the country on Saturday. Day temperature remained nearly unchanged except in a few places where it rose.

The highest temperature of 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi.

Outlook for subsequent two days: little change.

Extended outlook for another five days: no change.

The temperature and humidity of some cities recorded on Saturday were:

City	Temperature		Humidity %	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.6	22.7	70	46
Chittagong	33.3	22.9	78	60
Rangpur	33.7	20.5	69	54
Sylhet	33.4	20.5	75	56
Comilla	33.5	21	90	74
Khulna	34.7	22	71	54
Cox's Bazar	33.8	23	73	73
Rajshahi	35.2	19	62	43



Entire Fakirapool area in city plunged into darkness following electric short circuit on Saturday night. The Fire Brigade personnel, however, came when the damage was done. Huge electric accessories were damaged. Seen in the Star photo is the short circuit.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Hesitation
- 6 Schemes
- 11 Became dull
- 12 Tell
- 14 Irritate
- 15 Ordinary
- 17 Cooled lava
- 18 One, no matter which
- 19 Peruses
- 20 Unit of energy
- 21 Tellurium symbol
- 22 -- of the Union address
- 23 City in Russia
- 24 Descendant of Esau
- 26 -- Runner
- 27 Small valley
- 28 Seed containers

DOWN

- 1 Achd
- 2 Actress
- 3 Steady
- 4 Rubber tree
- 5 Compass

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ELM APART HIS
TAU EASES ARE
ADDERS PAMPER
DROSS RAP
GALA ELK PELT
ARETE YET NOR
ME OAR NOW LA
ENS TOO WORLD
SALT EFT ROSE
AIT FIRST
DIVERT BEETLE
ACE ERRED EEL
YES TIERS NIL

symbol
10 Looked fixedly
11 Talk idly
13 King of birds
16 Quiet
19 Quiet
20 Expunge
22 Little
23 More ancient
25 Aromas
26 Portends
28 Pounding instruments
29 In front of
30 Soup dish
31 Ascend
32 Substance
33 Spirited horse
35 Small amounts
38 Doom
39 Assistant
41 Decoy
42 Baker's product
44 Negative
46 Note of scale

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Also featuring SUB CONTINENTAL VEGETARIAN Cuisine.

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Biman Bhaban, Motijheel, Dhaka, Phones: 240151-10, 240161-10, 240171-10, 240181-10 Lines, Cable: AIRBANGLA.

LAND PURCHASE NOTICE

Biman Bangladesh Airlines wants to purchase 1 (one) Bigha land for the erection of its own Bhaban/Complex suitably located beside any main highway/commercially viable place of Sylhet city area. Interested land owners are requested to contact the District Manager, Biman Office, Zinda Bazar, Sylhet or the Assistant Manager, Estate and Common Service, Biman Bhaban, Motijheel, Dhaka by 31-3-91 with all requisite papers of ownership including deed, detailed information, lay out, price per decimal and total valuation, terms and conditions of bearing probable registration costs etc.

Biman Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal concerning the deal.

DFF(BA) 2106-12/3 Raisuddin Ahmed G-17 General Manager (Admin)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Directorate of Information Bangladesh Secretariat, Clinic Bhaban, Dhaka.

No-Sale-1/30/90-91/858 Date 29-11-97(BS) 14-3-91

TENDER NOTICE FOR BUYING MICROBUS

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Toyota Lileace or Mitsubishi L 300 Microbus importers/suppliers for the supply of a 9-10 seats capacity Microbus to be purchased by the information Directorate from its current financial budget allotment in pursuance of the vehicle standardisation circular SM/PAR/1 AA-3/88-194 dated 22nd May, 1989.

3% (three percent) of the quoted price will have to be deposited as security money (refundable) along with tender in the form of Pay order/Bank draft drawn on any scheduled Bank in favour of Information Officer, Directorate of Information. Tender schedule including details of the Microbus, terms and conditions etc. may be obtained on cash payment of usual charges of Tk 500/- (Taka Five Hundred) from the Accounts Department of Information Directorate.

Tenders will be received on 30-3-91 upto 2 p.m. in the tender box kept at Room No-310 of the said Directorate and opened the same day at 3 p.m. in presence of tenderers (if any). Incomplete tenders will not be accepted.

Information Directorate reserves the right to accept any tender fully or in part or reject it totally.

Md. Mokbul Ahmed Additional Chief Information Officer. DFF(G) 2973-14/3 Phone : 244521 G-19