

# Anti-racism Day today

The International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination will be observed today (Thursday) marking the anniversary of the killing by South African police of some 70 Africans demonstrating peacefully against pass laws in Sharpsville, South Africa, in 1960.

The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966.

As a part of its programme for the first decade for action to combat racism and racial discrimination, the General Assembly, in 1979, called for the observance by all states of a week of solidarity with the people struggling against racism and racial discrimination, beginning on March 21.

## Anniversary of Kazi Idris' death tomorrow

The 16th death anniversary of journalist and writer Kazi Mohammad Idris will be observed tomorrow (March 22), reports BSS.

Qurankhawani, Milad Mahfil and feeding the poor will be the part of the programme, family sources said.

Idris a former Assistant Editor of now defunct "Purbodesh" had begun his journalistic career in Calcutta in the early forties. He had to his credit a number of books, including translation from world renowned literary works.

## Imposter held

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested an imposter on Tuesday from Bismar Road.

Ainul Haq (35) had been collecting huge amount of money from people posing as a police officer or bank employee.

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A New Offering in the Vendor's List

by Rahat Fahmida

The deafening racket of the loudspeakers was touting a most unusual merchandise — seeds. This is such a departure from the endless superduper blingblings over every living minute for two long months — selling politics.

For many years now, the city of Dhaka has had street vendors selling their wares on the doorsteps of people. The variety of items they sold, ranged from sarces to crockeries, trinkets and various other things. But the most important thing was that the method they chose was to go around the city on foot calling out to possible buyers — ignoring or rather adjusting to the scorching heat, dust or rain. As the city has expanded, the ways chosen by the sellers of these wares have quietly changed over the years.

The modern street vendor of Dhaka, sells his goodies, sitting in his hired rickshaw, using the privilege of modern amenities of electric technology, i.e. a microphone to attract his customers these vendors usually come to our doorsteps with day to day essentials. Recently there has been a change in the list of their offerings, no doubt respondent to the demands of their clients. Now, among other uncommon items, we come across not only pot plants, but plant seeds. The urban population is feeling the necessity to grow fruits or vegetables, on top of the seasonal flowers and ferns, utilising whatever limited space they can get. This space may be in their own house or some rented flat in a multi-storied building, where they only have the option of raising pot plants.

Trees are grown for their foliage but their emphasis can also be on fruits or vegetables. A well grown plant, for its colour and lushness, is the target for the admiration of all eyes.

Banana plantation is the most popular amongst our fruits. Though papaya is said to be widely growing, but its cultivation in a large scale started only very recently.

We come across street vendors selling colourful packets of papaya seeds, (for Tk.5 each), and in a

manner that would create an interest among the people for its cultivation.

One such street vendor was Mohammed Asiruddin. It was amazing to find him taking the help of modern technology to publicise his wares in Motijheel. He was in a rickshaw with a box containing hundreds of packets of papaya seeds and calling out to customers with the help of an amplifier. In this way he was reaching out to many people even within the towering office buildings in the noisy commercial area, where he stationed his rickshaw for that whole long day.

Asiruddin is a plant lover. After his primary education, when he failed to get a job, he decided to take up his one time hobby as his source for earning his bread and butter. From his childhood he had two gardens within the compound of his house — one mainly for seasonal flowers and the other for fruits and vegetables. Asiruddin said, "I have come down from my village, Kishoreganj, only for this business. I bring these seeds from Barisal, where they have an unit for cultivation of these papaya seeds, which in fact they initially imported from Taiwan. I have rented a small room in Gandaria and have left my family back in the village.

"I hire this rickshaw on a monthly basis, and travel from one end of the city to the other. Everyday I select a particular locality of the city and go back to the same after ten to twelve days. And I do not want to move out of Dhaka."

Asiruddin said that he starts his day at 10 a.m. and goes on till 7 p.m. Though it is a tiring job to convince the people that from these seeds they will have a fruitful papaya plant, but Asiruddin thoroughly enjoys his work.

He said "I earn Tk.1500 per month. It is my net income after paying off my rickshaw fare and loudspeaker charges. Plants are my companion. Moreover I think people in our country should cultivate fruit plantation, not only for themselves, but for their family and neighbours."



Asiruddin selling papaya seeds — Star photo



Begum Khaleda Zia placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar after being sworn in as the Prime Minister on Wednesday. — Star photo

# Khaleda Zia felicitated

Different political, and socio-cultural organisations Wednesday felicitated Begum Khaleda Zia on her assumption as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The organisations, in separate statements, said that under the dynamic leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia the country would proceed toward the desired development and progress.

The General Secretary of Workers Party of Bangladesh, Mr. Rashed Khan Menon, MP, congratulated Begum Zia and hoped that she would take initiatives to make the parliament sovereign and reintroduce parliamentary system of government.

Halling Begum Zia, the Acting First Secretary of Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal, Mr. Nirmal Sen, hoped that the new Prime Minister would show laudable efficiency in running the government.

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Jatiyatabadi Sechchhasebak Sangathan, Bangladesh Tafsil Jati Federation, Bhashani Jatiya Sangad, Krishak Sramik Party, Bangladesh People's Party, NAP-Bhashani, Chairman

of Liberty Forum Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, Bangladesh Nagarik Adhikar Parishad, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Alhaj Mohammad Akram Hossain, President of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association Mr. Mosharraf Hossain, President of the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh H. B. M. Iqbal, Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners' Association and Bangladesh Jatiya Bidyut Sramik Karmachari Union are among the organisations which have hailed the new Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers Union and Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity in two separate statement on Wednesday felicitated Begum Khaleda Zia on her assumption as first woman Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Md. Abu Siddique and Md. Lal Mia, President and Secretary of Dhaka Hawkers Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity and Md. Lutfi Ali and Md. Mastafa Kamal, President and

Secretary of the Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers Union issued the two statement, on behalf of their respective unions.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Jahangirnagar University Unit Wednesday brought out a big procession in the campus to celebrate assumption of office of Prime Minister by Begum Khaleda Zia.

They also held a rally where speakers demanded trial of the deposed President Ershad.

The Secretariate of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal (ML) congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia on her assuming the office of the Prime Minister.

The extended meeting of the Dal presided over by its chief Comrade Dilip Barua hoped that the new government under the leadership of Begum Zia would give democracy an institutional shape. The meeting expressed the hope that Begum Zia would reintroduce parliamentary system of government in the country.

Syed Sirajul Huda, Convener, Bangladesh Nationalist Lawyers' Intellectuals Forum, Mr. Premranjan Dev, President, Bangladesh Hindu Parishad, Sudhir Chandra Sarkar, President, Bangladesh Tafsil Jati Federation, Monindranath Sarkar, Chairman, Bangladesh Hindu Oikya Front, Maulana Abdul Matin, President, Bangladesh Labour Party, Advocate Nurul Islam Khan, Convener, Jatiya Janata Party and Khalequzzaman Bhuiya, Convener, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) issued statements separately congratulating Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and her government.

In a statement, he hoped that the new government would succeed in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people expressed through the just concluded elections.

## Newspaper holiday Mar 26

All the newspaper offices will remain closed on March 26 on account of the Independence Day, according to a Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad press release, reports BSS.

There will be no publication of newspapers on March 27.

## Tk 5 lakh smuggled beer, cigarettes recovered

CHITTAGONG, Mar 20: A special squad of Chittagong Sea Customs recovered smuggled cigarettes and beer worth over Taka five lakh in two separate raids here today, Customs sources said, reports BSS.

Seven cases of Chinese beer were recovered from a Chinese flag vessel M. V. Guang Min at outer anchorage of Chittagong port when the ship was rummaged by the Customs personnel.

One thousand two hundred and fifty cartons of foreign cigarettes were recovered from a thatched house at south Halishar. None was arrested as nobody was found at the house during the raid. A team of BDR also assisted the Customs team in this raid.

## Lawyer suspended from legal practice

The Number One Tribunal of Bangladesh Bar Council has suspended Advocate Majruddin Ahmad from legal profession until the settlement of a case on charge of professional misconduct filed against him with the Bar Council, reports BSS.

The suspension takes place from March 13, a press release from the Bangladesh Bar Council said in Dhaka on Wednesday.

## TV Thursday

The 7th regular weekly meeting and first Board meeting of the Rotary Club of Uttara will be held to-day (Thursday) at 5.15 P.M. at the residence of RTN. A. Rob Chowdhury, 'HIMONEER' House No. 21, Rd-3, Sector-3, UTTARA. The Meetings will be followed by Ifar and Dinner

## TV Thursday

- 5-00 Opening and Recitation from Al Quran
- 5-20 News in Bengali
- 5-30 Sports World
- 5-55 Mahe Ramzan
- 6-25 Documentary Film: The Universe Without End
- 7-00 Documentary Film: The Green House Effect
- 8-00 News in Bengali
- 8-40 Weekly Drama
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Drama Serial: On the Fringe
- 11-15 News
- 11-30 Closing

## Water contamination in Rampura alleged

Suffering of the East Rampura residents due to water contamination for about two weeks knows no bound as WASA men even failed to detect the faults, reports UNB.

Landlords and inhabitants alleged the Water and Sewerage Authority men, after repeated complaints, had visited the area for last three days, but without doing useful jobs to remove the contamination due to leakage of sewerage into water line.

An Assistant Engineer of WASA also came to the spot on Wednesday but he too could not prescribe any early solution.

He told the scared people that a fresh plan needed to be approved for repair of the water line, and that will leave the people without supply of water for some more days.

Inhabitants of the area are going without adequate drinking and cooking water, not to

speak of washing and bathing, while they are fasting in the sweltering heat of the month of Chaitra.

They are collecting scanty water from distant areas only for essential uses.

## Baha'i New Year today

Members of the Baha'i Community of Bangladesh will join millions of Baha'is around the world in observing New-Ruz, the Baha'i new year, on 21st March which is the first day of the Baha'i month Glory (Baha) New-Ruz means New Year, says a press release.

In Dhaka Baha'is and guests will meet at the National Baha'i Centre, Circuit House Road, for prayers and festive gathering.

The Baha'i Faith (religion), which originated in Iraq in 1844, has a calendar of its own.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

- 1 Mountains of Europe
- 5 Rude cabin
- 12 Fate
- 13 Mimicker
- 14 Roman fiddler
- 15 Impose a tax
- 17 Short stabbing weapon
- 19 Substance
- 20 Brief
- 21 Goddess of discord
- 23 Withered
- 24 Cake of soap
- 28 Fragments
- 29 Youngster
- 31 Hebrew month
- 32 Fallshead
- 33 Work at
- 34 Wander

**DOWN**

- 1 Actor West
- 2 "Win, — or Draw"
- 3 Billboard
- 4 Beech
- 5 Possesses
- 6 Above
- 7 TV's Koppel
- 8 "Look Back in —"
- 9 Rue
- 10 Follows dos
- 11 Painful
- 16 Faux pas
- 18 The sweetsop
- 22 Soupy —
- 23 Beef animal
- 24 Knapsack
- 25 Arabian garment
- 27 Free of
- 29 Fuss
- 30 Canoe
- 35 Shot out suddenly
- 36 Surf
- 37 Gypsey — Lee
- 38 Improve
- 40 Spouses
- 42 Flexible; limber
- 43 Thick slice
- 44 Wan
- 46 Danish island
- 47 Beatty film
- 49 A Reiner
- 50 Positioned
- 53 Editorial

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

T	A	C	T	D	A	L	E	M	L
A	C	H	E	O	P	E	N	O	N
B	E	A	R	S	P	A	D	D	L
S	M	O	K	E	S	O	D	E	S
B	A	T	S	E	A	B	U	Y	
A	R	E	T	E	R	R	O	R	A
S	I	N	U	P	A	U	T	I	L
E	L	A	S	S	O	R	T	A	N
A	R	K	R	E	S	N	U	G	
S	E	R	E	S	A	R	O	N	G
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	I	S
A	I	T	L	A	O	S	R	E	A
N	E	E	A	G	R	A	R	E	M

## Weather

### Dry spell to continue

By Staff Correspondent  
Met office on Wednesday forecast rain and thundershower accompanied by temporary gustywind in next two days over the region of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Mymensingh, Comilla and Sylhet. Weather likely to remain dry elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature will remain nearly unchanged. Temperature in Rajshahi rose further and was recorded at 38.8 degree Celsius which was highest in the country on Wednesday.

Temperature was above normal by two to five degree Celsius over the country except a few places.

Tuesday's westerly low lay over eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, sub-Himalyan West Bengal and neighbourhood. Seasonal low lay over south Bay.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Activities for thunder shower would increase.

Outlook for another five days: little change. Sunset today (Thursday) in Dhaka at 6:10 am and sunrise tomorrow Friday at 6:01 pm.

Temperature and humidity recorded on Wednesday at the major cities and towns in the country were:

Cities/town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	36.8	24.1	82	35
Chittagong	32.5	23.0	78	82
Rajshahi	38.8	17.7	40	26
Khulna	37.4	23.5	81	45
Dinajpur	37.2	19.3	41	28
Barisal	36.2	24.0	85	60
Srimangal	36.5	21.1	72	46
Cox's Bazar	31.5	22.1	82	77
Sylhet	35.0	21.0	77	49
Khepupara	34.5	25.7	76	82

## Ataur Rahman

Veteran politician, Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan, Wednesday congratulated Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and her government.

In a statement, he hoped that the new government would succeed in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people expressed through the just concluded elections.

## Manager Administration

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MANAGER ADMINISTRATION

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