

Dhaka Day by Day

I smell rat

by Fayaz Haq

A rat had inadvertently sneaked from the garden to my bed in the first story. With some entertaining that I do food scraps spill here had there do invite roaches and rodents. When a trap had been set, the rotten bloated body soon stank to high heavens.

Bad odours in houses in Dhaka are not uncommon. The flush of the bathrooms in Dhanmandi, Malibagh and such places will occasionally refuse to function. Then the stench that ensues in embarrassing, specially if there are discerning visitors.

Even though you might have to pay a small price, to use public toilets in Europe is easy. But such public refreshing rooms are nonexistent along that roads I have visited and passed through. The overwhelming stench of this, plus what arises from the rubbish bins in the city, is staggering. Simply the sight of the stray mangy dogs and cats nosing around these dumps can upset you. The maids and the houseboys emptying the household rubbish anywhere is no pleasant sight. They add to the smell by carelessly dumping the garbage anywhere on the roadside instead of the fixed bins.

If you should have the mischance of passing the garbage collecting half-open trucks you have to hold your nose, as your rickshaw glides by it.

The little sacking-covered carts taking away the remains of the slaughter houses, again, are unpleasant items that one must navigate through, between one's routine trip between Mottfheel and Dhanmandi.

The fish carts, arranged by the government, are also something that you may try to avoid, just as the open butcher's shops along Central Road or Mohammedpur or even New Market.

But not all the smells in Dhaka are revolting or unbearable. Sometimes as you pass the rickshaws around Ramna Park you encounter men passing by smelling of expensive women's perfumes. Our middle classes have got on to after-shaves and colognes, but have somehow got mixed up along the way, and use "Optum" or "Fidgi" as well, as can be detected by the scent. At times, while doing the necessary shopping in Ghousia or New Market, or even Hawker's Market, one comes across the strong whiff of "Old Spice" or "Dentim".

As for the young ladies, the housewives, who have limited entertainment apart from the husband's official gatherings, they pour "Prophecy" and "Charlie" as if they were going out of fashion. This happens even when they are not just to buy a pen refill, or cotton "sarits" for the maids for Eid.

The inviting smell from the bakeries are a matter of grave temptation. One tends to forget one's battle of the bulge, and goes in for the yummy cream and chocolate covered pastries, or the unavoidable chicken patties, when simply going home passing these shops. Similarly sweetmeat shops along Green Road and Dhanmandi, and not just the ones in New Market and Old Dhaka, have disastrous impact on the waistline. You can smell the inviting flavours, and just as chocolate has been scientifically

been proved to soothe the nerves, so do the odours and taste of "roshogolla" and "jelapies".

As for the smell of the "kebab-nan," and "biryani" that assail the nostril while you are at work, in some dumpty moth-eaten office in the city, you could go quite grumpy having to suffice with dry sandwiches to keep the cholesterol and caloric

count down. These shops dot the Dhaka roadsides and one can get the smell of biscuits and "Cokes" from behind curtains in Ghousia and New Market even during Ramzaan.

One of the fondest memories of my youth is the smell of my mother's baking in her kerosene oven. She made plain butter cakes and peanut cookies but I believe, even today, that perhaps heaven has nothing more tempting to offer.

As for the frying, basting and cooking smells that emanate from the kitchen during Ifar and Eid, I doubt that anyone can remain aloof and unaffected by this.

At times the "biryani" smells from wedding and "aqtqa" occasions from under "shamianas" might appear overwhelming, but it is not an odour you dislike, although there is undoubtedly a glut of it during some seasons.

Another smell dear to my heart is that of turpentine which you get as you enter some of the rooms of the Institute of Fine Arts. This applies, I believe, to anyone who has dabbled in paints in one's youth.

The sense of smell has such a powerful impact that I know of a young woman lingering on to a useless boyfriend simply because he was cunning enough to use a seductive "Paco Rabanc".

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"Khabarer Kagaj" sued

Managing Director of Janata Bank M. Hayatur Rahman has lodged a case with the Press Council against weekly "Khabarer Kagaj", says a Press release, reports UNB.

In his case Hayatur Rahman alleged that the weekly carried an article titled "White paper of corruption-2, no mercy for crime" in its issue on February 21, 1991 which damaged his honour and prestige.

He said the article was meant to defame him and that he had lost his reputation in the country and abroad.

10 pc representation of women in cabinet urged

BNP MP Prof. Jahanara Begum, elected from the reserved seats in Parliament on Monday said they would demand 10 per cent women representation in the Council of Ministers, reports UNB.

She was giving her reaction to the media after taking oath as member of parliament Monday morning.

Another MP Farida Rahman said that she was very happy at the rare coincidence in the new parliament where the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition in parliament were both women.

"We (women) don't want to dominate (male) but I feel

proud at this rare coincidence", said smiling Farida who has become MP for the third time. She was also a member of Parliament in 1973 and 1979.

Khurshid Jahan, eldest sister of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, was among the 28 BNP MPs who took oath on Monday.

Jahan told a questioner that she does not like to be known by any other name except as a BNP worker.

Concern over harassment of Prof Mannan

By Staff Correspondent

Al-haj Abdus Samad Azad and Kazi Altul Islam Ukil, President and Joint Secretary General of Bangladesh Gana Azadi League, in a statement on Monday expressed concern over the harassment of former Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Abdul Mannan.

In a statement to the press on Monday the leaders demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for such activities.

They urged all to resist such activities unitedly and maintain a peaceful atmosphere in all spheres of life including educational institutions.

Punishment to killer of Nafia demanded

Teachers, students and employees of the Economics Department of Dhaka University Monday demanded judicial investigation and exemplary punishment to those responsible for the death of Nafia Kamal Gazi by April 15, reports UNB.

Nafia, a brilliant student, was killed in a tragic road accident at Mouchak square on March 29.

The demands were made at a condolence meeting held at the Economics Department Monday morning with Dr. Moutaj Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of the Department in the chair.

It was addressed among others, by Prof Mosharruf Hossain, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Dr. Abul Barkat, Nafia's relative Rouf Chowdhury and Begum Rouf, classmate Masud Ali, Syed Masud Hossain and Nazmun Nahar Ratna.

The meeting over, teachers and students brought out a mourning procession on the campus.

Meanwhile, the Gulkhwari of Nafia will be held today (Tuesday) at her father's residence at 5/A, New Circular Road.

Garments workers hold rally in city

Nearly 200 workers of a garment factory brought out a procession in the city on Monday demanding immediate reopening of the factory, reports UNB.

The processionists voiced slogans in support of their demands and paraded the streets before dispersing the factory premises at Shantibag.

Comtrade Apparels Ltd, a concern of the Beximco, was declared lock out on March 17 following uneasy situation arising out of dismissal of 10 workers by the management.

The workers termed the dismissal as "illegal" and alleged that the authorities were trying to resort to coercion to suppress union activities.

Since the closure, the workers were observing sit-in demonstration in front of the factory to press home their demands.

One killed in road mishap

An old man was killed on the spot when a bus dashed him down on Dhaka-Tangail road in Kaliakotr upazila, Gazipur Sunday night, according to police, reports UNB.

Eye-witnesses said the victim, Abed Ali (65) of the same upazila was knocked down from behind by Tangail bound Dhaka bus while he was crossing the road.

The driver, however, fled with the vehicle. A case has been filed in this connection.

Obituary



Mrs Rizia Islam, wife of Dr. Azizul Islam, Acting Chief Medical Officer BUET, died of cardiac arrest at the Diabetic Hospital on Monday. She was 48.

She left behind one son, one daughter and a host of relations to mourn her death. She was buried at the graveyard of Shaheed Intellectuals at Mirpur. Her Kul Khwani will be held on Thursday at 22/ BUET Staff Quarters after Asr prayer.

Weather

Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong, Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Kushtia, Khulna and Jessore. Weather is likely to remain dry elsewhere in the country. Day temperature likely to remain nearly unchanged.

Rain and thundershower occurred at many places over Chittagong and a few places over Khulna division on Monday. Rainfall recorded at Srimongol 22 millimeter, Sylhet 75 millimeter, Feni 36 mm, and Sandwip 40 mm. Day temperature rose by one to three degree Celsius in most places. Highest temperature of 38.6 degree Celsius was recorded in Jessore.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Outlook for another five days: Weather likely to improve. Temperature and humidity of some cities recorded on Monday:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.7	22.8	55	72
Chittagong	31.2	21	78	70
Rangpur	28.5	21.5	91	80
Sylhet	32.6	18.2	92	87
Cox's Bazar	31	21.5	73	91
Bogra	33.5	22.8	83	72
Rajshahi	38	23.6	91	41

Hasina urged to help make radio, TV autonomous

An eight-member delegation headed by Fatz Ahmed, convener of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote (Combined Cultural Alliance) called on Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and President of Bangladesh Awami League, at Bangabandhu Bhavan in Dhaka Monday afternoon, reports BSS.

The delegation sought support and cooperation of the Leader of the Opposition in realizing their 11-point demands.

The demands include withdrawal of anti-people Cultural Commission report, repeal of Drama Performance Act, 1876, Film Society Act, 1983, and Press and Publications Act to ensure freedom of expression.

Other demands include declaration of radio and tele-

vision as independent autonomous organisations in accordance with the demand of the Radio and Television Shilpi Goshti and supported by the political parties, democratisation of Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy and Shishu Academy through legislative reforms, repeal of National Museum Ordinance, 1983 and introduction of a new ordinance, setting up of National Theatre and a new art gallery.

Welcoming the delegation, Sheikh Hasina appreciated their role during the anti-autocracy movement. She extended her party's full support to the charter of demands of the Jote.

The Awami League President pointed out that these demands were part and parcel of the anti-autocracy

movement and that she would continue to support them for early realisation.

Fatz Ahmed told the Leader to the Opposition that the Sammilita Sangskritik Jote would stand by the November joint declaration of the three political alliances to make parliament sovereign and accountable to the people. The Jote also congratulated Sheikh Hasina on her becoming the Leader of the Opposition.

Senior Awami League leaders including Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofael Ahmed and Amir Hussain Amu were present.

The delegation included Ramendu Majumder, Nasiruddin Yusuf, Mamunur Rashid, Ataur Rahman, Jamaluddin Hussain, Mafidul Huq and S. M. Solatman.



Mrs. Rahmat Ara Husain, wife of late National Professor Atwar Husain handing over a cheque of Tk. 2 lakhs to Professor M. Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka on Monday in order to establish "National Professor Atwar Hosain Memorial Trust Fund" in the University.

JCD leadership may be recast

By Sohel Manzur

Hectic move is on to infuse new leadership in the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) through holding of its national conference in early May.

Possible candidates for fresh leadership of the JCD are now keeping themselves engaged in maintaining liaison with the leaders and members of the organisation in Dhaka and other parts of the country.

They are also having close contact with the influential leaders of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of which JCD is a student wing.

According to JCD sources, there are as many as six candidates to fight for the posts of President and General Secretary of the organisation.

Vice-President of Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU) Rizvi Ahmed, General Secretary of Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) Khairul Kabir Khokon and JCD Joint Convener Fazlul Huq Milon may contest for the presidency, sources said. DUCSU Assistant General Secretary Najmuddin Alam and central leaders Ilias Ali and Quamruzzaman Ratan are keen on the GS post of the JCD, they added.

DUCSU VP and JCD convener Amanullah Aman, MP will not retain his leadership in JCD.

A recent meeting of the

JCD Convening Committee decided to hold its national conference in early May. But the date may be shifted, insiders said.

Last conference of the organisation was held in December, 1989. The executive body elected through that conference continued its tenure till March 1989, when the executive body was dissolved and the present convening committee was formed following conflict in JCD central leadership.

JCD at present has so far 78 political district units throughout the country. Representatives from these units will attend the central conference in Dhaka to elect their leaders.

It may be pointed out that conferences in the JCD district units must be completed before the national conference. Commenting on the issue, a JCD leader said the central conference might be shifted since conferences of most of the district units may not be held till then.

The ceremony was attended by the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Treasurer, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Chairman of the Departments of the faculty.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof. M A Mannan, Monday called for making the Waqf Administration more dynamic and welfare oriented, reports BSS.

He sought cooperation of the concerned people in this regard. He was visiting the Bangladesh Waqf Office here Monday. The Waqf Administration informed the State Minister that there were one lakh 50 thousand 593 Waqf estates in the country of which 13,200 are enlisted with the Waqf Administration.

Religious Affairs Secretary A.Z.M. Shamsul Alam was also present.

The State Minister later visited the Mirpur Mazar and offered فاتحة there. He expressed his happiness to see various development projects there.

Prof. Mannan was told that income from the Mazar from 1987 to 1990 was Taka one crore 41 lakh 48 thousand 418 while Taka 80 lakh 21 thousand 274 were spent for construction of mazar, mosque, minar and gate. Besides Taka nine lakh 703 were spent for the madrasah and orphanage adjacent to the mazar.

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Donation to set up Atwar Hussain Trust Fund

A cheque for Tk 2 lakh was handed over to the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University on Monday to institute a trust fund in the name of late national Professor Atwar Hussain, reports UNB.

Begum Rahmat Ara Hussain, wife of late Atwar Hussain, handed over the cheque at a simple ceremony Monday morning.

Late Prof Atwar Hussain served in the Commerce Faculty of Dhaka University and was also a member of the Planning Commission.

The trust fund will be named as "National Prof. Atwar Hussain Memorial Trust Fund". Interest accrued from the donation will be utilised for giving scholarships to students of the four departments of Commerce Faculty and also for meeting incidental expenses of its Doctoral candidates.

Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Maniruzzaman Miah while thanking Begum Hussain remarked that such donations will help to preserve the autonomy of the university and also to encourage higher studies and research.

The ceremony was attended by the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Treasurer, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Chairman of the Departments of the faculty.

Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association (BCPFA) formed its new executive committee advisory council and the national council for 1991-92 on Sunday at its biennial general meeting, a Press release said.

Journalist Sadek Khan and Advocate Shamsul Jalal Chowdhury, was elected President and Secretary General of the association respectively.

Ataur Rahman Khan, founder President and ex-Prime Minister and 37 others were elected chief patron and patrons respectively.

Abdul Momen, ex-Ambassador was elected as Chairman of the Advisory Council with 37 others as members.

Women should work together for development

Bangladesh Women's Congress, at its independence Day programme recently, urged women's organisations to come forward for development of womenfolk, says a press release.

The Congress congratulated Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina.

Hamida Rahman, President of the Congress said women should work together with men for development of the country.



Anniversary of Justice S M Hussain's death today

By Staff Correspondent

The fifth death anniversary of Justice Syed Muhammad Hussain will be observed today (Tuesday).

In this connection, Quran Khwani and milad mahfil will be held at the residence of Begum Syed Muhammad Hossain at 38, Dflu Road, Moghbazar, Dhaka.

Justice Hossain was an eminent Judge of the Supreme Court who was illegally removed by Former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad under Martial Law. His removal from the judgeship of the Supreme Court was protested by the Bar Associations all over the country. His boldness for the independence of judiciary and his unquestionable honesty and integrity and his learned judgements made him famous in and outside the country.

Justice Hossain was Chairman of the International Law Association and Amnesty International, Bangladesh Branch and was also the Chairman of the International Commission of Jurist, Bangladesh Branch and attended several International Law Conference in different countries of Asia, Europe and America. He was also Honorary Secretary and one of the founder of the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts and the then Pakistan Arts Council. After his death a book "Banglar Katha" written by Justice Syed Muhammad Hussain was published in Dhaka.

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2 Bangladeshi children get awards in Ankara contest

The works of two children from Bangladesh won awards in the Fifth International Ataturk Children's Art Exhibition which are being organized in every two years with the aim of strengthening love, friendship and fraternity among children of the world, says a Press release.

More than 5000 works from 28 countries were sent to the Exhibition.

Wahida Nasrin Tumpa (7) and Md Mostafizur Rahman (15) won the awards.

The prize giving ceremony will be held on April 5 in Ankara State Gallery of Fine Arts and the awards of the winners who will not be able to attend the ceremony will be handed over to the representatives of their Embassies in Ankara.

New body of BCPFA

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- 1 Unit of energy
- 4 Schemes
- 8 Burst
- 12 Deface
- 15 Cowboy competition
- 14 Solemn wonder
- 15 Portion
- 17 Baltimore baseball team
- 19 Footish
- 21 Ancient
- 22 Make ready
- 25 Not hollow
- 29 Note of scale
- 30 Weighing device
- 32 Steak order
- 33 Play part
- 35 Sends forth
- 37 Female colloq.
- 38 Want
- 40 Bend
- 42 Tellurium symbol
- 43 Spoor
- 45 Anger's
- 47 Household pet
- 49 Mix
- 50 Large African cat
- 54 Simplation
- 57 Brown kiwi
- 58 Expunge
- 60 Sailor
- 61 Still
- 62 Days of Wine and
- 63 Pigeon
- 5 Behold!
- 6 Fusa
- 7 Roman tyrant
- 8 Drifts
- 9 Crony
- 10 English streetcars
- 22 Small factory
- 23 Indy car
- 24 Christie part
- 26 Fall behind
- 27 Angry
- 28 Erases printing
- 31 Kinds of collars
- 34 Opaque
- 36 Single-airplane raids
- 38 Gaming cubes
- 41 Receipt word
- 44 Sooner or
- 46 Coarse hominy
- 48 Hawaiian brookstick
- 50 Sob
- 51 Garden tool
- 52 Ingest
- 53 Possesses
- 55 Grain
- 56 Attempt
- 59 Eggar ID

Answer to Previous Puzzle

HAT ADORE TAG
ERA LINER ANA
REPAIR FIELDS
ITEM EL
TROT CAT ALMS
ROB ATTENTION
AT EGO NET TO
CORMORANT FOR
TREE SHE TARE
NA ASEA
PADDLE SNARES
RYE PLIATED ULE
VEN SITES GAT

