

# Dhaka Day by Day

## The Evergreen Drink

by Sabah Chowdhury

It is no fancy shop in an expensive shopping arcade of Dhaka city, which sells beverages, under different trade names and company price.

It is a shop with a difference, since it quenches the thirst of the sweating pedestrians with a drink which has not been produced in a factory, rather grown on a tree: i.e. water of green coconut. A very common fruit of our country.

The shop is quite unassuming, just like the drink it sells. It does not have any bright coloured tools or for that matter ceiling fans revolving over the head of the customers to make the atmosphere cool. The vendor selling green coconut water is visible from afar, sitting amidst the heaps of his merchandise, sometimes just lying on the pavement or in a basket. A bunch of straws is kept handy.

"Despite stiff competition from the bottled beverages, this natural drink is holding its own in the market," says Mohammed Golam Rahman, with a smile. Hailing from the district of Noakhali, he sells green-coconut water at Fakirapool Bazar.

He discloses that he was once a farmer of means, having substantial land in his village home. This gave him considerable return. The increasing burden of his family brought him to the city of Dhaka and to the uncertainties of the life of a footpath vendor.

He is in this business for about two years.



Green coconut: The natural drink is still popular among city dwellers. — Star photo

Everyday in the morning he brings his wares from the wholesale market at Wiseghat. The rate varies from Taka 300 to 500 for 100 pieces. Summer is the high season for selling. Golam sells coconuts worth Taka fifty (50) to Taka seventy (70) per day. He sells them at Taka six / seven apiece. After meeting all expenses he is able to save about Taka 1000 per month. The customers he says are mainly men.

Coconut trees are grown all over Bangladesh. The water of the green-coconut is not only refreshingly tasty, but also natural and nutritious containing certain essential minerals like potassium. This is one drink which can also be taken by a diabetic person. Besides, this is a very useful drink during the time when a person is attacked by diarrhoea.

In recent times with more awareness about health and hygiene amongst our populace, the method of drinking this natural drink has also improved. Previously the common way to cut open a hole at the top of the green-coconut, and to drink the water by tilting the shell. But nowadays, a straw is put inside the hole, making it much easier and perhaps hygienic way to drink.

The green-coconut soft drink company, produced by the Mother Earth and distributed by ordinary citizens, are competing well in this industrialised age. Fizzy drinks are popular, but green coconut drinks are evergreen!

## Research centre on Khomeni to be established

Imam Khomeni Memorial Council, Bangladesh will establish a research centre to conduct work on the life and contribution of late Imam Khomeni, founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reports UNB.

In a press statement the Council on the occasion of its first founding anniversary held in Dhaka Tuesday decided to set up educational institutions, libraries, literary and free medical centres.

The meeting also expressed profound grief at the colossal devastation caused by cyclone last month and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls.

It also held a special prayer for speedy recovery of Ayatullah Syed Ali Khamenei, successor of Imam Khomeni who recently underwent gall bladder operation.

A 21-member central working committee of the Imam Khomeni Memorial Council was elected with Barister Ruhulla Hasan and Md. Minhajul Islam as President and Secretary General respectively.

## Book exhibition at BUET opens tomorrow

A book exhibition jointly organised by the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and the United States Information Service (USIS) will open tomorrow (Saturday) at 10-30 am at BUET library. Dr. M. Shahjahan, Vice Chancellor of BUET will inaugurate the exhibit which will remain open from 2 pm to 6 pm and continue through May 21.

U.S. Scientific and Technological Societies and Foundations in both pure and applied fields are supporting this exhibit by providing journals and books. The exhibit includes books on all branches of Engineering, Agriculture, Chemistry, Botany, Ecology, Forestry, Geology, Physics, Electronics, Telecommunications and Mathematics.

The exhibit consists of 95 catalogues of journals, 162 journals and 284 books. A video show during the exhibit will feature science, technology, art and culture of the United States, says a press release.

## Painting exhibition

A solo painting exhibition by Ahsan-ul Ameen Sultan will be inaugurated today (Friday) at Goethe Institute, German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi in the city, says a press release.

Prof A. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs will inaugurate the exhibition as the chief guest while Prof Mantruzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University will be the special guest.

The exhibition will remain open from 10 am to 7 pm everyday and will continue through May 26.

## Office-bearers

Bangladesh Secretariat Karmachari Sanjukta Parishad has elected its 31-member executive committee for 1991-93 with M. Azizur Rahim and Syed Mohiuddin as President and Secretary General respectively, a press release of the organisation said.

Addressing the employees, the new office-bearers said they would continue their movement for implementation of the new National Pay Commission and reintroduction of office timing from 7-30 am to 2-00 pm, the press release said.

## UN asked to open office of coordinator for disaster relief

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher met in New York on Tuesday with the Secretary General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar, a press release said.

The meeting focused on how the role of the United Nations can be strengthened in connection with the coordination and implementation of international relief efforts given the increasing frequency with which natural and man-made disasters are occurring.

Genscher suggested to the Secretary General that the office of U.N. Coordinator for immediate disaster relief should be established. He said this office should be held by a high-ranking person in the U.N. Secretariat who would be able to assume responsibility for top-level coordination of all relief measures in the U.N. System in direct contact with the Secretary General. Genscher said it would be important that the coordinator has the authority to send in relief personnel immediately.

Genscher went on to say that the office of a U.N. Coordinator for immediate disaster relief should also have a data base with constantly updated information.

## PROGRAMME Poetry recitation

Atish Dipanker Research Centre will hold a solo poetry recitation session by Poet Golam Quader today (Friday) at 10 a.m. at 4/A Seghun Bagicha (CAB auditorium) in aid of the cyclone victims. Litterateur Fakir Ashraf will attend the session as the chief guest while Poet Helal Hafiz and DUJ General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi will be the special guest.

## Mymensingh Zilla Samity

A discussion meeting of the Mymensingh Zilla Samity, Dhaka will be held today at 5.00 p.m. at its office at 384, Moghbazar in the city.

The members of the executive committee have been requested to attend the meeting.

## BSEHR

The certificate giving ceremony of a training course for journalist organised by the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights will be held at a local hotel on Friday.

## Chattagram Samity

A joint meeting of the Trustee Board, Council of Advisers and Executive Council of Chattagram Samity, Dhaka will be held on Friday at 4.30 p.m. at Chattagram Bahavan, 32 Topkhana road.

The meeting will discuss ways to rehabilitate victims of cyclone and tidal surge in Chittagong on April 29.

## Task Force starts relief operations

The US relief team comprising marines has started its relief work in cooperation with the Bangladesh Armed Forces in the cyclone and tidal surge-hit areas of the country; Brig. M S A Bhuiyan, Acting PSO to the Supreme Commander and in charge of the relief activities Monitoring and Coordination Cell, said here Thursday, reports BSS.

Briefing newsmen on the

activities of the main coordination cell and the four cells set up under it, he said relief operations were going on in full swing with the supply of relief materials through air, rail and road to provide succour to the cyclone-affected people in the country's coastal belt.

He said the four cells set up at Zia International Airport, Kurmitola, Old Airport and re-

lieve godown had been working round the clock to help intensify relief operations in the affected places.

Brig. Bhuiyan said the President's relief godowns, placed at the disposal of the Prime Minister, started functioning on May 6.

Detailing the relief activities, Brig. Safat Ahmed, Director, Operation and Planning, Supreme Command Headquarter-

ters, said the US Task Force which brought 24 helicopters made three sorties in the cyclone-hit areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar till 2 pm Thursday.

He said the 24 US helicopters in one lift together could carry relief materials weighing 500 tons. If the weather remains clear they could carry a total 2500 to 3000 tons

## USSR willing to set up N-plant

Soviet Union has indicated its interest in setting up nuclear power plant and coal-run centres for generating electricity in the country, reports UNB.

Soviet Ambassador Vitali S. Srinov said this when he made a farewell call on the State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Khondoker Musharraf Hossain on Thursday. Musharraf Hossain apprised

the Ambassador of the country's stock of energy and mineral resources.

The Soviet Union has also expressed its willingness to help Bangladesh in setting up electric line and power substations, the Ambassador said.

Sergey Sadovnevskov, Chief of Soviet Energy and Mineral Resources Mission in Bangladesh was also present during the meeting.

## Plea to improve hydrological data

A seminar on "reducing uncertainty in flood frequency analysis" was held on Wednesday at the seminar hall of Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), reports BSS.

Presided over by Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Chairman of Civil Engineering Division, IEB, the key-note paper was presented by Prof. A. K. M. Zahiruddin Chowdhury, Institute of Flood Control and Drainage Research, BUET. The seminar was organized by the Civil Engineering Division of IEB.

In his key-note paper, Prof. Zahiruddin proposed to prepare a flood frequency analysis guideline immediately for Bangladesh.

Prof. Zahiruddin also suggested to improve the quality of hydrological data, being collected by Water Development Board and other agencies.

Other participants included Mr. S. A. Siddiqui, a former Chairman of Water Development Board and Mr. Akhter Hossain, Secretary of Civil Engineering Division, IEB.

## BDR personnel asked to stop smuggling

The Director General of Bangladesh Rifles, Major General Abdul Latif, has directed the BDR personnel to work with more dedication and honesty, being imbued with the spirit of patriotism, in stopping smuggling across the border areas to save the country's economy from destruction, reports BSS.

He also directed them to rise above all self interests and serve the country by protecting its border and stopping the smuggling.

The BDR Director General said this while addressing BDR personnel of Rangpur and Dinajpur sectors Monday and Tuesday, a BDR press release said in Dhaka.

Major General Abdul Latif also distributed prizes as the chief guest among the winners of the final match of inter-sector football game at the Rangpur sector stadium on Monday of this three-day visit.

Director of Implementation and Training Colonel Mohammad Shahjahan Chowdhury is accompanying the BDR Director General.

## Farakka Long March Day observed Just share of Ganges waters demanded

Different political parties here Thursday observed the 15th anniversary of Farakka Long March through separate programmes demanding the just share of waters of the river Ganges, reports BSS.

On this day in 1976 the legendary leader late Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani led the Long March towards Farakka to draw the attention of the world leaders about the devastating effects of Farakka Barrage on the environment and ecology of Bangladesh.

## Call to stop violence on campus

SAVAR, May 16: Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (JUCSU) Vice-President Saidur Rahman Rana and General Secretary Abdul Awal Mollah in a joint statement Thursday strongly demanded punishment of those who were involved in the incident of cross-fire on Dhaka University TSC on Wednesday.

They also called upon all the students, teachers and other concerned to come forward to stop such violence.

The Farakka Barrage was built by India on the river Ganges to divert waters towards the Bagrathi River to flush the Calcutta Port.

National Awami Party (Bhasani), Bangladesh Muslim League and Jatiya Ganotantrik Party held discussion meetings at their respective office premises and highlighted the significance of the anniversary.

Speakers at the discussions observed that 15 years had passed after the Farakka Long March but Bangladesh did not get its just share of Ganges waters as yet. Besides, India was also obstructing the flows of 54 other common rivers by constructing barrages and groins.

They observed that due to the Farakka Barrage desertification process had been started in the northern districts of the country and salinity intruded deep into the mainland affecting agriculture, forest fisheries and industries. Siltation of the river beds due to low flow were affecting river transport system.

Imbalance created on the environment and ecology had also contributed towards increase of severe cyclonic storms and tornadoes, they pointed out.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Tennis stroke
- 4 Make amends
- 9 Vigor
- 12 Anglo-Saxon money
- 13 Seagoing vessel
- 14 Exist
- 15 Individual
- 17 Chief arteries
- 18 Fish eggs
- 20 Enthusiasm
- 21 Walk
- 23 Equally
- 24 Encornium
- 27 Lamprey
- 28 Performs
- 30 Lamb's pen name
- 31 Article
- 32 Clergymen
- 34 Stack ID
- 35 Intertwine

DOWN

- 1 Cut off
- 2 Native metal
- 3 Container
- 4 Medicinal plant
- 5 Metal
- 6 Running
- 7 Approach
- 8 Wear away
- 9 "Rat"
- 10 Period of time
- 11 Footlike part
- 16 Soak up
- 18 Play parts
- 20 One leg on each side
- 21 Junctures
- 22 Doctrine
- 23 High cards
- 25 "The Golden"
- 26 Mollifies
- 28 Pacific of "Sea of Love"
- 29 Window frame part
- 32 "The Big"
- 33 With prefix
- 36 Most secure
- 38 Eagles' nests
- 40 Tropical fruits
- 42 Boy
- 44 Liquor
- 45 Sour
- 46 Proverb
- 47 Contend
- 48 Meadow
- 49 Guido's high note
- 50 The firmament
- 53 Note of scale

Answer to Previous Puzzle

PERT SPREE ABA  
ORT OREAD VAT  
TRAPPED UNITE  
TOSS ACES  
TRUE SENATORS  
HURTS DOTS IO  
ODE TRINE CAR  
ERE ORAL STATE  
EREMITES ARAS  
LACE ABLE  
SPURT STALEST  
OLD ENTER RHO  
DYE ROADS SEW

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

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27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45

46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53 54

55



Shabnam Mustari, a noted singer, rendering songs at a function at National Press Club held on Thursday in aid of cyclone victims. — Star photo

## Permanent rehabilitation programme demanded

CHITTAGONG, May 16: Distribution of house building materials under private initiative began here on Tuesday, State Minister for Fisheries, Livestocks and Environment, Abdullah Al-Noman distributed more than 500 pieces of GI Sheets among the cyclone victims of Bakolia area, reports BSS.

Goalonda Textile Mills owner, Alhaj Nazrul Islam donated the GI sheet for distribution among the affected people.

Alhaj Nazrul Islam assured the Minister that more house building materials would be donated on behalf of his textile mills soon.

## Cox's Bazar dist assoc

Cox's Bazar District Association has demanded of the Government for undertaking coordinated and constructive relief operation in the cyclone affected areas.

Addressing a press conference at the local Press Club Wednesday Mohammad Nurul Alam and Engineer Mohammad Ashraf Jamal President and General Secretary respectively of the Association, said the survivors of the cyclone affected areas did not receive any succour even after 17 days of the devastating cyclone as the relief materials and other food stuff sent were inadequate to meet the demand. "Those people were provided with relief materials who were within the reach of communication" the

leaders said. The president of the association has claimed that the death toll in Cox's Bazar district was alone one lakh and according to official sources, property worth Taka 200 crore was damaged during the cyclone and tidal surge.

The leaders of the association also demanded permanent rehabilitation programme, necessary loans for reconstruction of multi-storied building as cyclone shelter centres in the coastal belt, repair of all educational institutions and cracked embankments. Waiving the loans for shrimp, salt and agriculture and introduction of Grameen Bank model loans to the shrimp cultivators.

## Khaleda violates Constitution by inviting US troops: JSD

President Mahtuddin Ahmad and General Secretary Azizul Islam Khan of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Wednesday blamed Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for ignoring parliament and violating the constitution by inviting US soldiers into Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In a press statement here they said the US navy had long been conspiring to build a naval base in the St. Martin's Island of Bangladesh.

The leaders also said that the people of the country wanted to know why US soldiers were permitted to enter Bangladesh.

## Obituary

Mohammad Tofazal Hossain, a Director of Daffodils Garments, died of a heart attack here, Thursday, family sources said. He was 59, reports BSS.

He left behind two sons, three daughters and a large number of relations, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Khilgaon chorasta in the afternoon. Later he was buried at the Shahjahanpur Graveyard.

## Blood donation

A blood donation programme was held on Thursday at the premises of Government Titumir College in Dhaka under the auspices of Titumir College Rover Scouts Group, says a Press release.

Presided over by Mr. Bazlur Rahman, Principal of the college, the programme was inaugurated by Mr. Monzur-ul-Karim, Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts. Scouts, teachers and students donated blood voluntarily. 125 bags of blood were collected. The bags were handed over to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

## Weather Nor'wester likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain/thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Chittagong Divisions and at a few places over Khulna Division. Day temperature is expected to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Kalbatshakhi squally warning: Temporary north west or westerly kalbatshakhi Nor'wester squally speed 70-90 kilometer per hour or more is likely at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi Divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Noakhali, Comilla and Sylhet.

The sun sets on Friday at 6.35 pm and rises on Saturday at 5.15 am.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: Dry weather likely.

Rain/thundershower occurred at most places over Dhaka and Rajshahi Divisions and many places over Chittagong Division. Chief amounts of rainfall recorded are: Dinajpur 6 cm, Sirimangal 5 cm, Madaripur 4 cm and Faridpur 3 cm.

Temperature and humidity of some important towns and cities on Thursday were:

Town/City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.5	20.9	91	82
Chittagong	31.9	26.0	74	75
Rajshahi	31.2	19.0	78	82
Khulna	31.7	20.8	84	73
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.6	78	78
Rangpur	25.6	-	89	83
Dinajpur	25.2	21.4	85	88
Sylhet	27.0	21.2	95	85
Barisal	32.0	21.5	92	71
Satkhira	34.0	22.4	86	69

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