Dhaka Day by Day

Food for Fantasy

Double standards are old hat in Bangladesh. But as long as we can identify the sources and keep laughing at them, there is still hope. Take a walk down a crowded Motijheel street. At eye-level, people are stiffly self-conscious in this city. Women are modestly wrapped up. Couples walk with such careful distance and indifference that it gives the game away. Rarely will you see physical intimacy of any sort, and the women are almost all in saris or salwarkameez and the mandatory dupatta.

Just raise your eyes some twenty feet. To where green-faced ruffians pursue rosy, unbelievably buxom heroines. In this world of film hoardings, high above the realities of social stricture and conservatism, frolic the fantasies of the Bengali (more particularly, of the Bengali male). One recent film hoarding showed a wellendowed woman with hooded eyes and a pronounced double chin (presumably a sign of beauty) clad in a flimsy blouse that left nothing to the imagination. On an adjoining panel, she was seen embracing her beloved in an embarrassingly intimate way that would surely have provoked a riot if attempted on a Dhaka street.

Painted boards in front of movie theatres are the most important advertisement form for the film in most of South and Southeast Asia, though this form is hard to find elsewhere in

female figurés: one dancer looks like a combination of Sridevi, on top, and Rambo (Thunder thighs).

Men on the panels are either villain or hero. In some parts of the sub-continent, a systematic colour-coding clarifies the moral status of each character on the board. The heroine is usually painted pink, a reflection of the ideal complexion in this region. She may have red cheeks, and most definitely red lips. The villains should be green or purplish, while the good men are tinged blue. All this seems to be arranged so that you know where to put your sympathies, for, as one critic said of 'Chor Dakat Police' (Thieves, Bandits and Police'), it can be hard to tell who's who.

Time and money involved depend on various factors. The demand for fighting figures, which require careful painting of muscles and complicated postures, fixes the price. The extent of female anatomy to be exposed is also a decisive issue. An average-sized board (2 to 3 metres high and 5 metres wide) takes a week or two to complete. The artist is provided with still shots of the film, which he copies in to larger-thanlife, eye-catching advertisements. Though agents are reluctant to discuss money, film hoardings reportedly cost upwards of 7000



The most important form of film advertising in this part of the world; vividly coloured hoardings that are governed by an artistic code as rigid as that of Renaissance paintings.

the world. Across our sub-continent, and into the Indo-Chinese peninsula, bizarre-coloured protagonists cavort over boards that can measure up to six metres high and twenty metres wide. High-quality, weatherproof paint protects the kicking ninjas and fleeing damsels. Features vary from region to region: in South India, faces are generally darker, often in shades of purple. Malaysian heroes have the straggling facial hair of their race. Strange tastes are revealed through the film hoardings of a country: Thais find freak blonde hair a crowd-puller.

A rigid code of artistic rules governs the painting of these boards, believe it or not. The woman must figure on a larger area of the panel than the man. "This," asserts an agent, "at tracts the real cinema-goers, who tend increasingly to be men only. We must have women in provocative clothes, or our largest audience is disinterested." Apart from her size, the heroine is also to be depicted in several poses, as varied as possible. Where there is scope, such as in the current 'Nache Nagin', costumes should be outlandish, and as revealing as possi ble. A distressing result of this practice is odd

In 'Strir Shapno', the demure doormat heroine could not be painted in the usual clothes. that would have put Madonna to shame. How does the painter circumvent the constraints of the script? 'I make her sari very thin, so she is attractive, but proper." About virile heroes leapfrogging over muscular villains, he said, " try to paint incredible physical feats, so people will stare at my board." If a recent hoarding of 'Shantrash' is anything to go by, 'incredible' is the word. With a total disregard for gravity and possible tendon injuries, a kungfu-like character delivers a most unearthly kick to his antagonist, in a position that defies description.

Would the man in the street like his world to resemble that of the boards? "I would like to be able to fight like that," says one movie-goer. "Oh yes, to defend my family and fight injustice." The desire to live the way those sky-high figures live seems common. To solve all problems with a fist and a song. But interviewees are equally unanimous on that other point: "No, of course I would not let my sister dress that

Independence without rights meaningless'

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz Thursday said there is no meaning of the rule of law if the rights of people are not guaranteed, re-

ports BSS. He said there is a deep relationship between law and human rights. Without laws and rule of law human rights can-

the inaugural session of the special course on human rights for the post-graduate level law

not be protected. Addressing as chief guest

students of the country, Mirza

49 Attempt

53 Elevator

CROSSWORD PUZZLER



without right is meaningless. Held at the Public Library auditorium, the function was chaired by Dean of the Faculty of Law, Dhaka University, Prof. Zahirul Islam Chowdhury, while the course was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Moniruzzaman Meah.

said independence

It was also addressed among others, by Education Secretary A.N.M. Eusuf, Dhaka University Law Department Chairman Dr. Ershadul Bari and Rajshahi University Law Faculty Dean, Prof. Badruddin.

Jointly sponsored by Dhaka University Law Department and National UNESCO Council, Bangladesh, the 10-day course is being participated by 20 law students of Dhaka and Rajshahi University.

Mirza Golam Hafiz said, we are firmly committed to uphold fundamental rights. rule of law, and independence and neutrality of the judiciary. To achieve these objectives we struggled for the last nine years against the autocracy, he added.

He said now there is rule of law, neutral and independent judiciary and complete freedom of expression in the country.

"We are engaged in establishing an administration based on democracy justice and fair play," he said.



Saturday



Comedy serial: Cosby 10.00 News in English 10.30 Drama Serial: Return

to Eden 11.30 Khabar / The News 11.45 Closing down

PM to receive donations till June 30

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will now receive donation to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund at her Sugandha Office until June 30 except June 9 and 10, reports

Earlier it was announce that she would receive the donation until June 8.

Discussion on Mahbubul Haq today

By Staff Correspondent

Mahbubul Haq Memorial Organisation holds discussion in observance of the 17th death anniversary of Mahbubul Haq at 4 pm today (Saturday) at the National Press Club. He was the Editor of Dainik Purbodesh and also a former member of Pakistan National Assembly.

Abdur Rahman Biswas. Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad will be the chief guest while the State Minister for Information, Nurul Huda will attend as the special guest on the oc-

It will be presided over by President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ), Reazuddin Ahmed.

CPB public meet June 10

By Staff Correspondent

The Communist Party of Bangladesh will hold a public meeting on June 10 at 4 pm at Purana Paltan.

According to a press release. the meeting will be addressed by Saifuddin Ahmed Manik. Shamsuddoha, MP. Nurul Islam Nahid, Mujahidul Islam Salim and Muniruzzaman.

Drama festival begins today

By Staff Correspondent

A week-long drama festival participated by theatre groups from outside Dhaka will begin today (Saturday) at the Shilpakala Academy audito-

Organised by the Shilpakala Academy as part of its ongoing programme to promote theatre groups in the districts, seven regional theatre groups will participate in the programme.

The Five-party Alliance on

Thursday demanded immedi-

ate establishment of a

sovereign parliament through

bringing constitutional

amendment during its ensuing

ence at the JSD (Inu) office in

the city, leaders of the alliance

warned both Awami League

and BNP saying they will be re-

sponsible if the opportunity for

consolidating democracy in

manded implementation of the

November 19 joint declaration

of the three alliances for con-

solidating democracy and said

people would not accept any

government's move to arrest

some student leaders of Dhaka

University in connection with

the assault on Jamaat leader

Matiur Rahman Nizami on the

campus while overlooking the

Jamaat-Shibir terrorism in

They also mentioned that

Weather

tomorrow (Sunday) at 5.11 am.

Max

31.2

28.8

27.3

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30

the country on Friday were:

the killers of Dr. Milon are yet

Chittagong University.

reports.

change.

Dhaka

Khulna

Rajshahi

Jessore

Bogra

Bartsa

Comilla

Sylhet

Srimangal

Rangamati

Cox's Bazar

Chittagong

The leaders criticised the

The Five-party leaders de-

Addressing a press confer-

budget session.

the country is foiled.

other solution.

'Terrorism, violence let loose'

Chancellor urged to intervene in Ctg Varsity affairs

CHITTAGONG, June 7: A section of teachers of Chittagong University today called upon the Chancellor of the University Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad to intervene in and find a solution to end the chaotic situation of the university, reports BSS.

They also urged the students, guardians and the administration to extend their cooperation to end the stale-

Addressing a press conference on behalf of the teachers at the University Club here, Dr Moinul Islam, a member of the University Syndicate, said that a suffocating atmosphere had been prevailing in the campus hampering normal functioning of the university and creating session jams. This situation can not be allowed to continue for an unlimited time in the greater interest of the nation and the students, he said.

organisation for creating trouble in the campus, he said that this organisation had resorted to strikes and terrorist tactics baffling call attempts by the university authority to restore normalcy in the campus. He said that this very organisation was trying to take control of the whole situation in the campus according to its own Dr Islam expressed surprise

Blaming a certain students'

Anupam Sen, Dr Fashful Alam.

One killed in road mishap

A padesterian was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck while crossing the road near Shanir Akhra on Biswa road Friday morning, police said, reports UNB.

The victim, identified as to Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

Quality products to enhance export earnings stressed

The Council meeting of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) was held in Dhaka on Thursday at the conference room of the organisation with Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan in the chair, reports BSS.

in support of their demands.

Addressing the meting, the Industries Minister said standardization and quality control of the industrial products is the most important precondition for meaningful industrial development of the country and to enhance export earning of the country as well.

He urged the BSTI authority to ensure its testing and stan-

The Five Party leaders also

accused the government for

not lodging any case against

ousted President Ershad and

his associates for capturing

power overthrowing an elected

lowed a three-day seminar on

'Implemention of the frame-

work of three alliances and ful-

fillment of the demands of all

profession, also arranged by

the alliances. Bangladesh

Samajtantric Dal (BSD) leader

A. F. M. Mahbubul Haq read out

the written statement at the

press conference on behalf of

Among other, Nirmal Sen.

leader of Sramik Krishak

Samajbadi Dal. Rashed Khan

Menon, General Secretary of

Workers Party, BSD leader

Khalequzzaman Bhuyan, JSD

leader Hasanul Haq Inu.

United Communist League

chief Bimal Biswas and Naim

Jahangir, leader of Oikya

Prokriya were present at the

press conference.

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

temporary gusty wind with a few moderately heavy fall is

likely to occur at most places over Chittagong and Khulna

divisions and many places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions

till tomorrow morning (Sunday) Meteorological Department

On Friday, the highest temperature recorded at Bogra was,

Extended Outlook for another five days: No marked

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.45 pm and rises

The temperature and humidity in some cities and towns of

Mini

25.4

25.4

24.3

24.5

24.6

25.2

23.8

25.2

23.6

25.1

24.5

26

Cities/TownsTemperature in Celsius Humidityin percentage

33.2 degree Celsius while the lowest temperature recorded at

Sylhet was 23.6 degree Celsius. The day temperature is likely

to remain nearly unchanged, met office forecasts.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change.

Light to moderate rain or shower accompanied by

The press conference fol-

5-party call to introduce

parliamentary system

By Staff Correspondent

to be punished.

government.

the Alliance.

dardization work for maintaining national and international standard of all the industrial products and all imported raw materials. In this regard, the minister assured that government would provide all assistance for strengthening the activities of the BSTI so that the expected quality of the industrial products could be achieved.

The employees of Grameen Bank holding rally in front of the National Press Club on Friday

The meeting decided that the Council meeting of the BSTI would be held thrice a vear instead of one. Mordernisation of the institution and some other important decisions were also taken in the meeting.

Industries Secretary and the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Shafiul Alam was present.

Mobile photographic show today

By Staff Correspondent

A mobile photographic' exhibition from the Asian Cultural Centre for UNESCO in Tokyo will begin here today (Saturday) at the Shilpakala Academy gallery.

Jointly organised by the Shilpakala Academy Bangladesh UNESCO National Commission and Bangladesh Photography Federation, the theme of the exhibition is "People and Habitat" of the countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Jamaat concern over Adamjee incident

By Staff Correspondent The Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Abbas Ali Khan in a statement on Friday expressed his concern at the clash in Adamjee Jute Mills.

forces are active to foil the process of democracy through chaos and conflicts. He urged all to face the problems with patience. He urged the government

to investigate in to the incident and punish those responsible for the incident.

JSD (Rab) Demand Day June 9

Rallies will be held in observance of the day. Alam Jiku and general secretary Prof Humayun Kabir Hiru

observe the day.

ing silence when a student organisation was perpetrating all sorts of terrorist activities. He alleged that though the

as to why police was maintain-

inquiry commission report on December 22 incident was yet to be made public by the government, this students' organisation was presenting. The content of the report in a distorted form to mislead the

Dr Islam said, we want proper action to end the stalemate in the university and restore a congenial academic atmosphere to enable the students to pursue their

. The former pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Alt Imdad Khan, Dr Prof Abdul Wasi and Dr. Hamida Banu were among others present at the press conference.

Anisur Rahman (35), died on the spot and his body was sent

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Mohammed Ali Khan

He said the anti-democratic

By Staff Correspondent JSD (Rab) has decided to observe 'Demand Day' on June 9 throughout the country.

According to a press release, the day will be observed to realise a 9-point demand which include unconditional release of JSD leader ASM Abdur Rob and withdrawal of case against him, professionals representation in the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament), introduction of joint ownership in the industrial sector and cheeking of price-hike of essentials.

6 pm

9 am

JSD (Rab) president Nur urged all units of the party to

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