Dhaka Day by Day

Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head

by Fayza Haq

"Bheegi raat mey per key nechey pretam aan milo" is an old and well-loved song of the Subcontinent. The people in Karachi, where I lived and worked before, used to be ecstatic and always romantic about the rain. Bengali longs praise the rain, and parents in Bangladesh name their darling children after objects and things associated with the rain such as "Meghla" and "Srabant".

For those who have to keep up the nine-tofive job in the city, however, the rain is not always a welcome prospect. I know of a colleague of mine who complained to me that he once found his entire family sitting on the bed and the rooms awash with water, when he returned home on a rainy day. The drainage, sewerage, plumbing, and roofing system is so pathetic that one has to live with such a situation

and blame it on

"kismet". As soon as the "Kal Boishaki" rains begin, the housewives worried about the drying of the clothes, and the spoiling of the "achars" and "chutneys". There is always

a wild rush to

shut windows when the rain pours down. When you find your clothes not ready to wear to office in the morning because of the previous day's rain, you can hardly keep your cool, unless you are a

lyana. . In our house, my mother is in a fluster whenever the rain comes because our corridors get wet, and if you carelessly leave a window open, the consequences are not funny at all. When expensive furniture and books get wet it is difficult to replace them.

very placid person, or you happen to be a Pol-

The case in my friends', houses is worse where there is the perpetual complaint of damp walls and breeding mosquitoes. Meanwhile servants find the rain a good excuse for not having done some work or the other, and refuse to to do errands despite the fact that everyone has umbrellas in their houses.

Travelling to work during the rain, to be in time, can be an ordeal even if you can afford a baby-taxi - and how many of us in the city can do that? I once had the experience of coming thoroughly wet to office. Fortunately it was a Friday and not many male colleagues were at work. I slipped off my "tang pajamas" and pretended I was working somewhere in London, with bare legs. I was embarrassed about my legs being exposed, even though they were well hidden under the table. I was worried about the opinions of my colleagues, who are not used to even Anglo-Indians working aside

Another time I landed at work, thoroughly wet, and sat working at my desk till my clothes dried and went home after my tasks

were over. My boss would not have been amused if he had arrived and not found the tasks done before his arrival. He had a chest atlment — or so he bluffed me into believing so that I tried not to be absent even on Fridays. Fortunately the men in that office kept their eyes glued to the desk, and it did not bother me that I was soaking wet. Only I caught a bad chill when I returned home.

There are many men and women that I know of living off Disprins. They think, sleep, eat and live on Disprins. The fevers are often due to the rain that assails them when they come to work. And how often can one take sick leave?

On another occasion I went to buy a gift for a friend's daughter. The gust of wind nearly blew my glasses off. The rickshaw was turned

> and twisted and prayed which I seldom do - as the thunder and lightening were overwhelming and were nothing that I had ever experi-

> enced before. I managed to buy the gift at Bailey Road, but by the time ! came to Dhanmandi Road No 4, with the gift, had to be

dried and mopped. This applied as well to the gift, which happener be a cotton sari. Imagine how I felt! "What a fool I've been, " I naturally muttered under my breath.

This was a case when I had travelled in a rickshaw. Once I went in a baby-taxi to Eskaton for a party during the rain and although I had my umbrella, I was once again soaking wet. The party progressed with candle lights as the electricity had failed and all the young women worried about how to return home, instead of enjoying the marvellous feast that the host had prepared himself.

Yet another time a treasured photograph that I had promised to return to a young woman got wet and pasted to another paper in my hand-bag due to the rain. She was not amused at all when she got back her photograph with ball-point inscriptions that had been transferred on to the beautiful photograph because of the leaking water .

When it begins to rain, even the open roads - such as those you find in the case of Dhanmandi and New Elephant Road __ get full of water, you would think we were in Venice and not in Dhaka. A colleague of mine told me how she once regularly went to work at the radio partly by a boat because of the heavy rains.

I have not even dwelt on the discomfort of thousands during the periodic cyclones and floods in the country. I admit that Dhaka is much better off than any other city of Bangladesh, and naturally also the countryside. Yet the thunder, lightening and the rainfall in the city are, of late, matters of concern rather than being something poetic or romantic.

What's on today

Stranded Pakistanis' rally

Stranded Pakistanis in Dhaka will bring out a procession in the city today (Monday) at 10 am to observe 'deliverance day' before their second long March on August 14.

The procession will start from the Institution of Engineers and disperse at the National Press Club. Stranded Pakistanis living in and around the Dhaka city

will participate in the programme. Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee has arranged the procession.

BCCI clients gathering

Clients of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) will gather at the BCCI premises today (Monday) at 10

BCCI Depositors' Association has requested all concerned to attend the meeting.

Press confce on campus violence

Bangladesh Jubo Ainjibi Samity (Young Lawyers' Association) will hold a press conference today (Monday) at 4 pm at the 'Flash Pots' Restaurant of Hotel Metropolitan (44, Topkhana Road) in the city to demand measures to stop campus violence and reopening of the closed universities.

Inauguration of cooperative society

The inaugural session of Pioneer Credit Cooperative Society Limited will be held at the Hotel Purbani today (Monday) at 10 am.

LGRD and Cooperative Minister Abdus Salam Talukder will attend the function as chief guest while State Minister for Information Nurul Huda will be the special guest.

Film show at Alliance Française

"Borsalino and Co" will be screened at the Alliance Francaise (26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi) today (Monday) at 8.30 pm. The French film base on a sequel to the ganster tale of the Marseille Gansters Carbone and Spirito. (Starring Alian Delon and Daniel Ivernel).

Rotaract blood donation

Rotaract Club of Dhanmondi Lake View holds a blood donation programme today (Monday) at 10.30 am at the Mohammadpur Red Crescent Blood Centre.

Dhanmondi Rotaract Club President MNG Azam Khan will inaugurate the programme. Interested donors have been requested to donate blood.

Press confce on jute industry

Bangladesh Jute Action has decided to hold a press conference today (Monday) at 11 am at the National Press Club to explain the existing problems of raw jute trading. Leaders of the committee will also place their charter of demands for removing the 'deadlock' in the industry.

Businessmen's press conference

Businessmen of Science Laboratory, Mirpur Road and Elephant Road will hold a press conference at the National

Press Club today (Monday) at 11 am. The businessmen will brief the newsmen about their problems now facing.



Hunger strike by BCCI clients

Clients of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have decided to begin hunger strike unto death at the BCCI premises tomorrow (Tuesday) demanding refunding of their deposits in the bank. The hunger strike will be observed for 10 hours everyday. Comptled by NA

DU contradicts reports The Dhaka University in a

rejoinder Sunday contradicted parts of two reports published in the Daily Star on August 2 and August 4.

The rejoinder said the August 2 report of the newspaper under the headline reopening of the DU a political problem' contained a comment by the Vice-Chancellor 'it has gone beyond the control of the

university authorities.' The August 4 report of the daily captioned 'DU won't reopen before commitment for a violence-free campus' quoted the VC as saying the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government has confessed its

failure to control the situation. The rejoinder said the VC never made such remarks to any of the Daily Star corre-

spondents. The Daily Star however tands by its reports with full

duration of union council

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Union Sadasya Sangstha on Sunday called upon the government to increase the duration of union council from three years to five

The Chairman of Sangstha Kamal Uddin Ahmed and Secretary General Albert P Costa in a joint statement issued to the press also expressed concern over the move by the government to hold election in the union council neglecting the demands of the sangstha.

They deplored at the murder of Abul Basar, a member of union council, and demanded the punishment to those responsible for his killing. They also urged the government to give compensation to the affected family of Basar.

Plea to increase | Convention on rights of the child to be implemented

The Government is determined to implement convention of the rights of the child to ensure a better future for them, reports UNB.

Secretary, Social Welfare Division Mohammad Faizullah said this while addressing the prize distribution ceremony of the painting competition, slogan and essay writings and photography on Sunday after-

Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) arranged the competition as one of the programmes to create awareness and highlight the issue of "Rights of the child in Bangladesh" held December

Chaired by VHSS President Mrs Joyapati, the function was also addressed by UNICEF Advisor Mujibul Hoq and Acting High Commissioner of

Faizullah said that the rights of the child can be established if mass awareness is created for the protection of their children.

He said that the SAARC countries will observe the next decade (1991-2000) as the "decade of the girl child" and an inter-ministerial committee has already been set up to take action plan in this regard.

Another inter-ministerial committee has also been set up to review the existing child right laws specially girl child, he added.

SAARC countries observed the year 1990 as the year of the girl child.

Referring to the non-government organisations lack of coordination concerning child development and social welfare he said a survey is being

conducted to assess the progress made by different social welfare organisations dealing with the handicapped

A coordination meeting will be convened after the completion of the survey to formulate a joint action plan, he said.

Discussion on Bangabandhu August 13

Bangabandhu Parishad will hold a discussion on "Democracy, rule of law and trial of killers of Bangabandhu" at the Institution of Engineers in Dhaka on August 13.

Chairperson of Bangabandhu Parishad, Poet Sufia Kamal will preside over the discussion. Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament, Sheikh Hasina will attend as the chief guest.

Justice KM Subhan, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiky Advocate Gaziul Hug, Prof Sarder Fazlul Karim, Prof Mohammed Aminul Islam and Golam Akbar Chowdhury will participate in the discussion.

The newly-formed "National mourning day observance committee" will organise rally at the Central Shaheed Minar at 8 am on August 15 to observe the 16th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Chairperson of the committee Poet Sufia Kamal will preside over the rally.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Abdur Razzak MP, Satfuddin Ahmed Manik, Azizul Islam Khan, Advocate Nurul Alam, Alhaj Abdus Samad and Begum Nasrin Siddik will participate in the discussion.

Shifting of Kader Siddiqui to central jail condemned

By Staff Correspondent Bangabir Kader Siddiqui Biruttam Sangram Parishad in a statement on Sunday condemned the shifting of Kader Siddigui from the Prison Cell of PG Hospital to Dhaka Central Jail on July 31.

Rare monkey faces extinction along Naaf river

By Staff Correspondent

Ill-planned leasing of forested

threatened

monkey.

areas along the Naaf river in

southern Bangladesh to

shrimp cultivators has

rare species of 'crabeating'

Dr Reza Khan, in charge of

Dubai Zoo and a former

Associate Professor of

Zoology, Dhaka University,

and participated by Nature

Conservation Movement

President Anisuzzaman

Khan and field Biologist Abu

Saeed made a three-day

tour of Chittagong to Teknaf

during last week failed to

find a single crabeating

monkey, locally called

usually found in areas

between Balukhali and

Teknaf townships in the

natural mangrove vegetation

on the islands and the bank

of the river Naaf. According

to a book Bangladesher

Banar Narbanar (by Dr Reza

Khan, published in 1987)

the number of crabeating

monkey is around 300 only.

South-East Asian coastal

areas, Bangladesh's Naaf

population of crabeating

monkey represented the

westernmost fragment and

was an ecologically

important species mainly

because there were literally

no other mammals in the

mangrove forests of the

could be found nowhere

else in Bangladesh. There

used to be a beautiful

natural forest on an oval-

shaped island named Jolir

Dia close to Teknaf and the

largest population of some

150 crabeating monkey was

found there. But due to the

fact that it was leased out

for shrimp culture, the

entire island of some five

square kilometres was

stripped of its forest

primates, Dr Khan and his

former students Farid

Ahsan and Abdul Wahab in

their report in 1982-83 to

Department had made rec-

Mizan hospitalised

Rahman Chowdhury was ad-

Sunday evening, reports UNB.

plaints, including high blood

pressure, diabetes and lung in-

fection and is now under the

care of Prof Quaderi, family

20 and undergoing treatment

in a prison cell at the PG

Hospital. He was released

Saturday on bail following a

Mizan was arrested on April

sources said.

court order.

Jatiya Party leader Mizanur

He has a number of com-

Grants

Forest

and

For protection of the rare

Moreover, crabeating monkey

river Naaf.

coverage.

University

Commission

ommendations

Government

Although not uncommon in

The crabeating monkey was

Parailla Bandor.

A team of scientists, headed by

existence of



declaration of the Jolir Dia as sanctuary to preserve the island ecosystem and its inmates - the fauna and flora. But the government, instead of conservation, leased out all the eastuarine islands of natural population for shrimps exploitation and gave permits for exporting crabs for a nominal revenue.

Mangrove formations along the coastal wetlands and eastuary are a must for spawning and as well as feeding ground of 'crustaceans' (crabs, prawns, lobsters, other decapods), mollusks, echinoderms etc. So by destroying the mangrove forest in the Naaf eastuary,

Bangladesh is not only losing the economically important natural biological stock but also destroying the storm and surge buffer and natural plant succession.

As there exists no mangrove forest along the river Naaf many species of birds like the 'adjutant stork,' 'white fbis' and many waders and waterfowls stopped visiting the area. This is no doubt an ecological disaster. Ecological experts have urged

the Bangladesh government to get back all these leasedout lands and regenerate mangrove forest again to save crabeating monkey from extinction.

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Leudet MO Description of Stores Quantity Sale of Tender

Documents Date and time for submission of Tender Date and time for opening of Tender

Place of submission

and opening of Tender

Muriate of Potash (MOP) Fertilizer. 45,000 M. Tons (5% more or less). Tk. 3100.00 or US\$ 85.00 (Non-refundable). 05.09.91 at 11.00 A.M. (BST).

05.09.91 at 11.05 A.M. (BST).

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Any member countries of ADB

PUR/FERT/2F/103/91 Dated: 05.08.1991

Source of Finance Source of Product

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B. No tender documents will be sold in the day of closing or opening of the C. Tender documents may be collected by post on sending stamps of

Tk. 3 (three) in favour of the Cashier of Accounts Division. D. No tender or any part thereof, will be accepted after closing of the tender. ADC-1315 Shaikh Khabir Uddin

DFP(G) 8921-4/8 Manager (Purchase) BADC, Dhaka.

Weather Rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or showers with a few moderately heavy falls is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions and few places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm on Sunday, according

to Met office in Dhaka. The temperature till Tuesday is likely to rise by one to three degree Celsius over the country. On Sunday, the highest temperature recorded in Rajshahi was 33.5 degree Celsius while the lowest temperature was 23 degree recorded in

Sylhet. Meanwhile, some districts of the country on Sunday experienced few moderately heavy falls. Cox's Bazar witnessed the highest downpour of 96 mm while Jessore met the second highest rainfall of 32mm. The rainfall in Khulna, Comilla, and Sylhet was 29, 10 and 04 mm respectively during the last 12 hours till 6 pm on Sunday.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Weather likely to improve. Extended outlook for another five days: Little change The temperature and humidity in some cities and towns of the country on Sunday were : Temperature in Celsius Humidity in Cities/towns percentage

6 pm Minimum 9 am Maximum 31.4 24.6 Dhaka Chittagong 24.5 Rajshahi 33.5 Khulna Sylhet 23 31.6 24.6 Srimangal 92 Fent 24 Comilla 25.8 23.5 97 Kutubdia 24.4 100 Cox's Bazar 27.2 24 Jessore 32.6 23.6