

Dhaka Day by Day

When Birthday Bashes Are More Than Balloons and Cakes

by Fayza Haq

The expense of holding a birthday party for a middle-class home apart, the hassle that goes into the occasion is often enough to give you a migraine attack.

I went to a birthday on the weekend, the other day, and was faced with a situation where an important guest had managed to lose her bejewelled pendant.

The family dared not ignore the matter. What a scouring followed with torchlights, brooms and sticks! The rubbish heap and the road nearby the house too was searched high and low but it was of no avail.



As it is a wedding that the girl had to wear such expensive jewellery? said the worn out young woman whose birthday it was with exasperation, humiliation and embarrassment. It's really spoilt everyone's mood, she commented.

Another unusual incident that ensued was that one of the guests was expecting a baby. She got her labour pains and had to be carted to the hospital post haste.

The return home to the houses was also delayed, as a consequence of the labour pains signal, as many of the young women were going back home in the host's car.

For some lame excuse or another does not make your spirits rise. Why cannot friends make it clear that they will not come at the outset, instead of actually relaxing on a weekend or attending to some more interesting pursuit and being frank about it?

"We are coming," the young debutantes kept on repeating on the phone, while the young hostess paced about in her stilettoes with tension. There were two rounds of serving that had to be done, and the elders could not eat before the young women were served.

The rain added to the delay of most of the arrival of the guests, and the prevailing tension in town was an excuse for the others to delay, or not turn up at all.

The young woman having her twenty-sixth birthday bash lives in India, and was having a party at her parents' home after six years. She surely deserved more support from her friends.

Kavita, my friend, was enjoying herself the night before the party. As a consequence, she got delayed in preparing herself for the party. The dress had to be resitched at four pm, her stockings had to be adjusted and her shoes stuffed with cotton.

As for all the work that went into the preparations for the feast, it took Kavita's mother all day to sweat in the hot kitchen. This was even though the dishes were vegetarian and vegetables, as everyone knows, cook faster than meat dishes.

5 tribal insurgents captured in Hill Tracts

CHITTAGONG, Aug 5: Bangladesh Security Forces captured five tribal insurgents after exchanging fire with them at Digalchari of Rangamat Hill District last night, an official source said here today, reports BSS.

Acting on secret information the security forces surrounded the insurgents but they opened fire on the security forces. Both sides exchanged fire for over 40 minutes and all five insurgents were injured who were later captured by the security forces.

UAE relief goods handed over

CHITTAGONG, Aug 5: Two thousand metric tons of relief goods given by the government of UAE for the cyclone victims was formally handed over at Chittagong Port this afternoon, reports BSS.

Women's Federation University Women's Federation here has extended financial help to 15 cyclone affected S.S.C candidates.

Each candidate was given Taka 200 at a simple ceremony held in this connection at Krishna Chura Kindergarten School with the school Headmistress Ms Ruhya Habib in the chair was attended by Chittagong City Corporation Mayor, Mir M. Nasruddin.

4 dacoits arrested in city

Police on Sunday arrested four dacoits from Mirpur Section 7.

The alleged dacoits entered into one house at Mirpur Section II, Block D on Saturday midnight by breaking the window grill and looted II tolas of ornaments and six thousand Taka in cash.

Tk 1.8 lakh goods looted from N'gonj market

From Our Correspondent At least twenty persons were injured and over Taka 1.8 lakh worth of cash and goods were looted when a gang of miscreants attacked a shopping market in Narayangonj town on Sunday night.

The miscreants attacked the DIT Jalil Supermarket at about 11 pm on the day. At least 20 persons were injured in an attack. Four of them were admitted to the Narayangonj general hospital with serious injuries.

All at them are employees in the market.

The miscreants looted Taka 30,000 in cash from the Runkl General Store and also took away goods worth Taka 1.5 lakh from other shops.

A case was lodged with the Narayangonj police in this connection.

Weekly 'Sugandha' sued

A case has been filed with Bangladesh Press Council against a vernacular weekly 'Sugandha' for publishing a controversial article, reports UNB.

The plaintiff, Saiful Islam Khan, alleged that the weekly tarnished the images of his father and brother by publishing an article titled 'Two more assembly plants to prevent Pragati' published on July 15.

He said the item was completely fabricated and motivated, a Press Council press release said Monday.



BAKSAL Secretary Abdur Razzak speaking at a discussion meeting on death anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in city on Monday. The meeting was organised by Bangabandhu Shilpi Gosthi.—Star photo

16 pc average system loss in rural electrification

The average system loss in the Palli Bididat Samities (PBS) during the last fiscal year was 16 per cent, a workshop was held in Dhaka Monday, reports BSS.

The two-day workshop on future target and evaluation of past performances of the PBS was further told that most of the samities had achieved the target set for the last fiscal year. The constitutional obligation of reaching electricity to all parts of the country, in phases, were recalled and it was observed that implementation would be done through an accountable administration.

body that administers the working of PBS) for achieving the targets set for fiscal 1991-92. REB Chairman Brig Mohammad Gholam Mowla and senior officials of the board were present.

President and General Managers of the 40 PBS attended the workshop, divided into four sessions, where detailed discussions were held on set target and achieved performances. Targets were refixed for some samities in consideration of their practical circumstances.

The samities were divided into two categories on the basis of their performance standard. Targets set included system loss, realisation of arrears from the consumers, payment of dues by samity to others, increasing the number of consumers, increasing yearly sale

of power and decreasing expenditure. As per the decision, samities that achieved the target will be rewarded, REB sources said. But employees of those samities which failed to attain target will be penalised, thereby setting example of accountable administration.

REB has a total of 40,586 kilometres of distribution line spread in 198 upazilas. The workshop was informed that average bill collection from consumers in PBS last year was 95 per cent which is at par with the development countries. System loss in PBS is borne by the consumers, the sources added.

World congress of accountants from October 11

A four-day world congress of accountants will be held in Washington DC from October 11, reports UNB.

The 14th congress on 'The Accountant's Role in a Global Economy' is sponsored by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

It is designed to enable the world's accountants in industry, government, education and public practice to share concerns, insights and opportunities.

Over 5,000 registrants are expected to attend the congress, said a press release. IFAC is made up of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) and 104 other accounting organisations of 78 countries.

Fourteen technical sessions are planned along with four plenary sessions.

The deadline for pre-registration is September 1, 1991.

Shahabuddin greets President of Bolivia

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Monday felicitated Lic Jaime Paz Zamora, President of the Republic of Bolivia, on the occasion of its independence day, reports BSS.

In a message of felicitation to Zamora, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed wished his good health, happiness and long life and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Bolivia.

Australian HC meets Oli Ahmed

The Australian High Commissioner in Richard Gate, called on the Communications Minister, Oli Ahmed, at the Secretariat Monday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest.



Bangladesh girl wins award in US for poem

Samira Andaleeb, an 11 year old Sixth Grade Bangladeshi student of a Pennsylvania (USA) school has recently been awarded the prestigious Golden Poet Trophy for her poem 'Life', says a Press release.

The announcement of the award was made by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento (USA) based World of Poetry - a famous society of poets. She will receive the honour (trophy) at the Seventh Annual Convention of the World of Poetry to be held in New York.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes 'Opening announcement, Al-Guran', 'Recitation from the Gesta', 'News in Bengali', etc.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bank (বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক) featuring a list of services and contact information.

What's on today...

Homeless people's rally

A rally of the homeless people in the city will be held today (Tuesday) at 10 am in front of the National Press Club to demand their rehabilitation and waive the arrear rent of the tenants residing in different city slums.

Students' rally to demand DU reopening

About 124 students, who stayed at various halls of the Dhaka University defying the authorities' order, have convened a rally at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) premises today (Tuesday) at 4 pm in protest against frequent closure of the university and in demand of its immediate reopening.

Chhatra Moitri press confce

Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri, student front of United Communist League, has convened a press conference at its Milkhet office today (Tuesday) at 4 pm.

NSCB meeting

A meeting will be held at the conference room of the National Sports Control Board (NSCB) today (Tuesday) at 4.30 pm to take preparations for the August 25 seminar on sports affairs of the NSCB.

Rotary Club meeting

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held today (Tuesday) at 5 pm at the Sheraton Hotel.

... and tomorrow

Musical soiree on Tagore

A musical soiree under the style 'Punya Probathe Ajee' will be held at the Vishwa Sahitya Kendra (World Literacy Centre) auditorium at Bangla Motor in the city tomorrow (Wednesday) at 7 in the morning.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Max, Min, Humidity in percentage. Lists cities like Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Tangail, Sylhet, Srimangal, Cox's Bazar, Ishwardi, Feni, Mymensingh, Bhola.