

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Slice of Paradise

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

When greedy Eve grabbed the forbidden apple and forced gullible Adam to eat it (or so they say) she may have had a premonition that her future children would be drowning in a sea of carbonated drinks. So her obsession with trying out new fruits and making poor Adam follow suit so as to keep it in their genetic composition. So before a man of your start to hyperventilate at such blasphemy let me put it in a different way.

Fatigued with continuous heat waves? Tired of counting the calories in a soda? How about a 'refreshing' change — fresh fruit? As I walked like a zombie among the crowded, muddy streets of Motijheel with my throat parched and my head spinning, I came across a fruit stand selling sliced pineapple. A few bites into the succulent, tangy fruit and I felt human again. A few yards away I could see a man squatting on the pavement with a huge basket of delicious looking guavas, green and shining in the sun. I had only walked for a few minutes while munching on one of the fruits like Eve on a fruit eating binge, when I bumped into yet another fruit stand, this time selling coconut milk. Looking at the men drinking the smooth, cool liquid through straws stuck into the pale green fruits, it was rather difficult to resist the temptation of trying one myself. I mean the coconuts of course!

These are only some of the fruits one can buy and eat on the spot without waiting to go home to peel, cut etc. Sliced melon, spiced up 'amraas' and sweet and sour 'kamrangas' are also very popular especially among school children. One of the most pleasurable after school activities is to sit under a tree and eat a chilly topped 'amraas' on a stick. Nowadays even fruit stands selling ripe papayas can be seen at the corner of an alley or street. Cocktails of mixed fruit (guava, pineapple and banana) are also coming up for the fruit salad fan.

The prices at which such prepared fruit is sold are by no means a cheap. A slice of pineapple or papaya sells at Tk. 4 or Tk. 5, a guava may

cost between Tk. 1.50 to Tk. 2 while a coconut may be charged at Tk. 6.

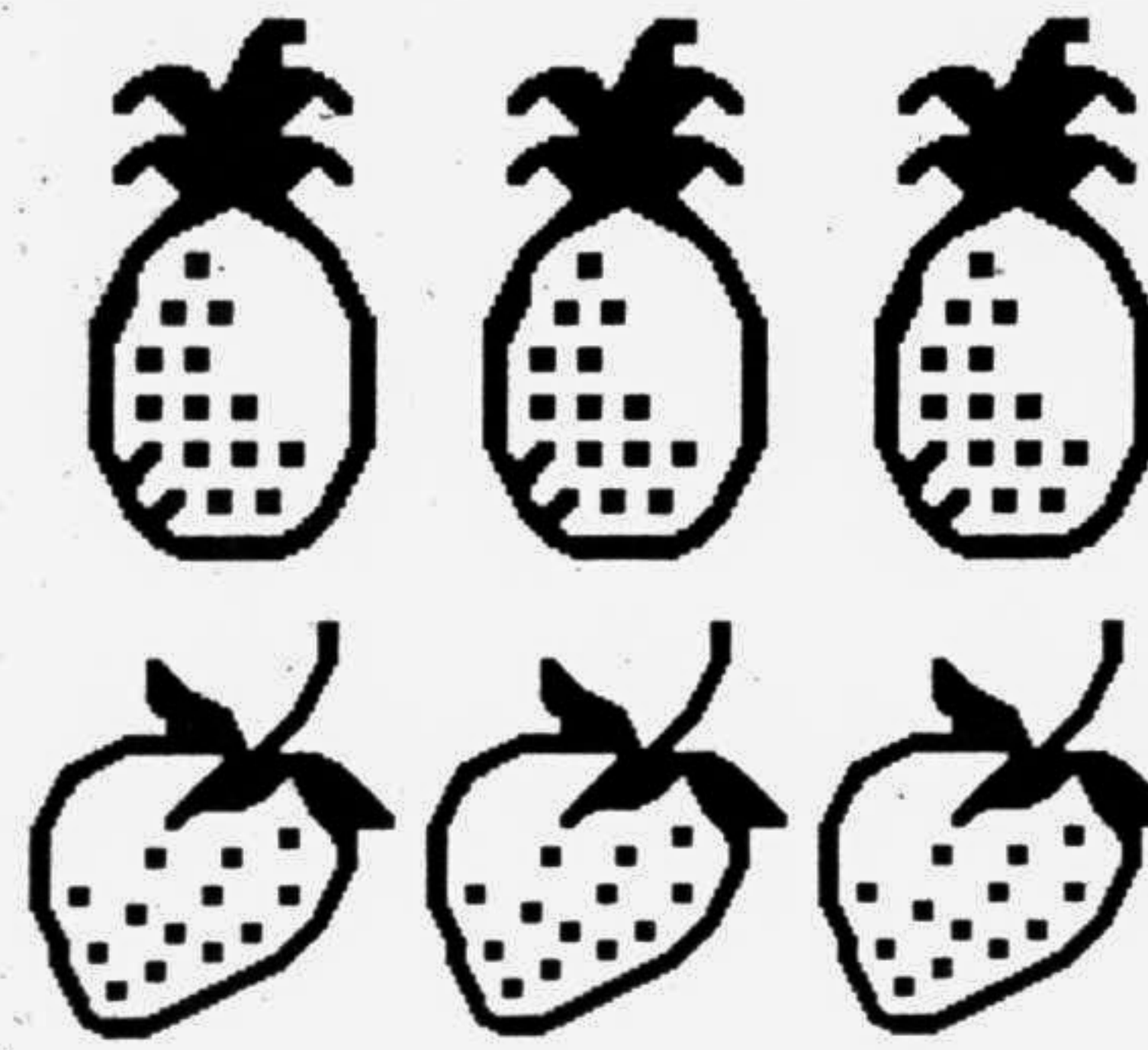
But then think of it this way. A whole pineapple or papaya may cost between Tk. 20 to Tk. 25 at the market which makes it out of the range for most people who find it hard enough trying to keep essential items on their shopping list. As for you soda addicts, spending Tk. 4 or Tk. 5 on a piece of fruit is a lot less than buying a soda for Tk. 7 to Tk. 8. It also means fewer calories, no preservatives, an abundance of vitamin-C and yes, a whole lot of fibre. Beauticians, too have a lot of good things to say about fruits. There should be at least one day of the week when one should only have fruit, they say, to provide the body with nutrients essentials for healthy skin and sparkling eyes.

But is it safe to eat from the streets?, the sceptic will shriek. There is no denying that there is room for improvement as far as hygiene is concerned even though the hawkers will

adamantly tell you otherwise. I mean the water with which the fruit is splashed on could be a little cleaner. Covering the fruit pieces with a polythene sheet could protect it from exposure. But then if you have lived most of your life in Bangladesh, your immune system should be fortified enough with all the 'phuc-hkas', stale 'shingaras'

and 'jhalnuri' you have consumed over the years, to ensure that a piece of fruit will not have fatal consequences. As for the occasional bouts of diarrhoea, that's just a slight inconvenience of life in a Third World country.

So if you don't want to look like a bottle after having 'a bottle of fun' buy a piece of fruit instead. Whether it's a pineapple slice, a piece of papaya or a juicy piece of melon there are more chances that you will be benefited than if you consumed any of those carbonated concoctions. Ask your mother and she will tell you how good fruits are for your liver, heart, skin, circulatory and digestive systems etc. After all if 'it's cool to be clear' surely it is 'neat' to be natural.



ment in industrial use.

At the invitation of Indian government the delegation had discussions with Dr. S. K. Joshi, who is also the Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in India and its other senior officials. They also visited CSIR and DSIR institutions in Delhi, Lucknow and Calcutta.

Other members of the delegation were: Dr. M. Walliuzzaman, Chairman, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Prof. M. Nurul Islam, Director, Institute of Appropriate Technology and M. Touhid Hossain, First Secretary, Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi.

## Dhaka, Delhi sign accord on research

Bangladesh and India signed an agreement in New Delhi last week for exchange of scientists and joint research projects in the field of science and technology.

Talking to BSS on his return from New Delhi Monday night, Habibur Rahman, Additional Secretary, in-charge of Science and Technology (S and T) Division, said under the agreement immediate action would be taken for cooperation in nine different identified areas.

Habibur Rahman, leader of the four-member Bangladesh delegation who visited India from July 29 to August 5 said according to the agreement India would consider proposals for short-term post-doctoral and long-term Ph.D. fellowships to the scientists of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

He said similar arrangements were under active con-

sideration of the government with other developing countries including China and Pakistan.

The agreement was signed by Habibur Rahman on behalf of Bangladesh and Dr. SK Joshi, Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) of India on behalf of his country.

Rahman said collaborative programmes would be taken to develop solar photo voltaic systems, design and development of improved types of solar dryers and cookers, food technology and repair and maintenance of instruments.

He said collaborative research would also be made in the fields of biotechnology, biomedical research, glass and ceramics, medicinal and aromatic plants and tissue culture.

He said Bangladesh would also seek assistance from India for development of an organisation for transferring the results of research and develop-

## Jubo Academy formed

A new youth organisation named 'Jubo Academy' has been formed recently at a meeting held in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The primary objective of the academy is to impart training to youths aged 15-30 years in different income generating and service oriented activities, a press release said.

## Aid for making jute industries profitable assured

The visiting Vice-President of the World Bank Atilla Karaosmanoglu, called on the State Minister for Jute, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, at the latter's secretariat office in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

During the meeting, the World Bank Vice-President assured all possible assistance for making the jute industries of Bangladesh profitable.

Among others M Asafud-dowla, Secretary, Ministry of Jute, MA Saeed, Alternative Executive Director of World Bank M Maniruzzaman, Project Director, Jute Manufacturing Study Project and M A R Talukder, Chairman BJMC where present.

## Netherlands envoy calls on Oli Ahmed

The Ambassador of Netherlands H. Gajentaan called on Communications Minister Oli Ahmed at his Jatiya Sangsad office on Tuesday, reports BSS.

They discussed ways and means to expeditiously commence the reconstruction of Karnafuly bridge, which was damaged by the devastating cyclone and tidal surge of April 29 and 30.

The minister requested the Ambassador to expedite the necessary formalities for starting the reconstruction work.

Matters of mutual interest especially related to the communication sector in Bangladesh also came up for discussion.

## Primary teachers to wear black badges from Aug 12

Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association (BPTA) has announced programme to press home their demands.

Teachers of all the primary schools of the country will observe complete abstention from work after signing the register on August 12. They will wear black badges from August 12 and will observe full strike and hold protest rally on August 25.

Primary teachers of greater Dhaka, Tangail and Mymensingh districts will organise a rally at the Jatiya Press Club. Teachers of other districts will hold rally at the district head quarters and join protest rallies.

The programme was taken for demanding implementation of Pay Commission report, pay hike, 2nd class status for the head teachers, absorption of development sector teachers into revenue sector and nationalisation of all private primary schools.

**TV Wednesday**

5.00	Opening announcement Al Quran
5.15	Programme summary
5.20	Reading from the Geeta
5.25	News in Bengali
5.30	Special programme in memory of Rabindranath
5.55	Sports programme
6.30	Shumacher
7.05	Hizal Tamal
8.00	News in Bengali
8.30	World roundup
9.00	Film: Macgyver
10.00	News in English
10.25	Parliament round up
10.40	Special programme in memory of Rabindranath
11.30	Khabar/The news
11.45	Closing

## Weather

### Rain likely

Rain or thundershower will occur at many places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi during the next 24 hours ending 6 pm Wednesday, Met Office reported.

Day temperature is expected to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Teknaf recorded the highest amount of rain 15 mm during 12 hours ending 6 pm on Tuesday. Dinajpur had 7 mm, Majdi Court 6 mm and Bhola 4 mm during the same period.

Maximum temperature in Dhaka on Tuesday was 31.4 degree Celsius and the minimum 26 degree. Rajshahi recorded the highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius while Feni the lowest 23.3 degrees.

The sun sets on Wednesday at 6-39 pm and rises on Thursday at 5-31 am.

Temperature and humidity in some cities and towns of the country on Tuesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	31.4	23.0
Chittagong	31.5	24.5
Khulna	32.4	26.4
Rajshahi	33.5	26.5
Cox's Bazar	30.5	24.4
Sylhet	32.0	23.8
Srimangal	32.6	25.5
Isahrdi	32.0	26.0
Rangpur	31.7	24.9
Bogra	32.5	26.3
Barisal	30.3	25.8
Mymensingh	31.7	24.3



Islami Chhatra Majlis brought out a procession in the city on Tuesday in protest against terrorism on the campuses. — Star photo

## No move to bring Ershad to JS: Badruddoza

Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury Tuesday underlined the supreme need for the national consensus in the passage of the Constitution Amendment Bills, reports BSS.

He was making a statement in the House in reply to the allegation of Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed that a move was under way to bring former President H M Ershad and three other Jatiya Party leaders, now in jail, to the sangsad on parole for voting on the Constitution Amendment Bills. Tofael also accused the government of trying to rehabilitate deposed President Ershad and Jatiya Party.

Earlier, Law Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz and Acting leader of the Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party, Moudud Ahmed refuted the allegations of Tofael Ahmed.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, whose speech was often punctuated with repeated applause by the members of the Treasury Bench and those from other groups excepting Awami League and its allies, said none should object if a national consensus was arrived at in the interest of the nation and the politics of the country. In this connection, he pointed out that the Constitution Amendment Bills had been brought to the House reflecting the sentiment and opinion of the people. The MPs of all major parties have been included in the Select Committee to ensure the passage of the Constitution Amendment Bills through consensus, he added.

The Deputy Leader of the House frequently said he al-

ways laid emphasis on national consensus to run the business of the sangsad properly so that the people of the country remained satisfied.

Dismissing the opposition charge, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said in clear terms that there was no move on the part of the government to rehabilitate former President Ershad and his Jatiya Party. He strongly denied that former President Ershad had a meeting with the Prime Minister. There was no proof to substantiate this, he added.

The Deputy Leader of the House, however, made it clear that every member of the sangsad had the right to meet

the Prime Minister for discussing his problems.

Lobbying is not an unparliamentary sentence or word he said adding lobbying an essential part of politics and political behaviour. He said former President is a convicted prisoner. The opposition could raise protest only when the 10-year imprisonment of Ershad was pardoned through lobbying, but not now, he stressed.

Prof Badruddoza also disagreed with the contention of Tofael Ahmed that Jatiya Party is not a part of the opposition in the House. In support of his point, he said when the Opposition Chief Whip submitted the list of speakers to speak on any issue in the House, he also included the names of JP MPs, he said.

## Call to repeal Indemnity Ordinance

Sixtyone teachers of Dhaka University have called upon the members of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) to take immediate steps to repeal the Indemnity Ordinance.

In a joint statement on Tuesday the teachers said immediate trial of the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was inevitable for paving way for establishing democratic rule.

The signatories to the statement included: Dr A K Azad Chowdhury, Dr Harun-Rashid, Khondker Ashraf Hossain, Muntasir Mamun, Sarder Fazul Karim, Dr Golam Rahman, Dr Arefin Siddique and Hashem Khan.

## Hiroshima Day observed

Bangladesh Peace and Human Rights Journalist's Forum (BPHRJF) arranged a discussion meeting at the Forum office on Tuesday to observe the 'Hiroshima Day'.

Presided over by Bablu Rahman, President of the Forum, the meeting was also addressed by Mahub Alam, Mesbah Ahmed, Masudul Hassan, Moyeeduddin and Salimullah.

Paying respects to those who died in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the speakers hoped that such holocaust would never occur in the future. They regretted that states were still spending more arms than on efforts to remove poverty and hunger.

## DU education action body formed

Some students of Dhaka University who dubbed themselves as 'general student's' and who earlier stayed in the halls defying orders of the authorities have formed a 11-member committee called 'Dhaka University Education Action Committee' on Tuesday.

They will organise a silent procession on August 8. On August 12 they will hold a rally at the foot of Aparajyoto Bangla. On August 14 they will stage sit-in demonstration in front of the office of the Vice-Chancellor.

The rebel students have demanded tentative date or announcement of opening Dhaka University by August 17. Otherwise, they would return to their halls on August 17, they cautioned.

## Police asked to maintain moral standard

Inspector General of Police Tayebuddin Ahmed Tuesday asked the armed police battalion to make all out efforts to check nefarious activities of the miscreants aimed at improving the law and order situation, reports BSS.

Ahmed said the armed police battalion which was created at the directive of late President Ziaur Rahman had earned reputation in the past in arresting armed miscreants and bringing security in public life. Members of this battalion have made supreme sacrifices in attaining their task. The IGP recalled, a press release said.

The Inspector General was speaking at a function at the head quarters of the armed police battalion at Uttara. Nurul Huda, DIG armed police battalion also spoke on the occasion.

## Employment Opportunity

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## BSP endorses Hasina's statement on Dainik Bangla

The Bangladesh Sangbad-patra Parishad (BSP) said the general workers of the Dainik Bangla and the Bangladesh Times would be financially better off, if the dailies were freed from the government control and those competed freely with other newspapers, a BSP press release said in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Referring to the question raised by the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Sheikh Hasina, why The Dainik Bangla should not be transferred to private sector, the BSP, in a statement, said the question raised is not a new one.

## Egyptian envoy named

Egypt has appointed Mohammad Kamal Elgohary El Meligy its new Ambassador to Bangladesh. Foreign office sources said Tuesday, reports UNB.

Kamal will replace Mohammad Mostafa Badr.

Earlier, Kamal, a career diplomat, held important assignments in his country's missions in Italy, Ghana, Hungary, Lebanon, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates.

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The closing and opening date of International Tender Enquiry No. Pur-367/91 dated 10.06.91 for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Travelling Water Screen with High Pressure Water Wash for Sikaboh 60 MW Power Station is hereby extended up to 11.09.91. No Tender will be sold on the opening date.

As such Tenders will be received upto 10-30 AM on 11.09.91 and will also be opened at 11.00 AM on the same day in presence of tenderer or their representative, if any.

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