

Dhaka Day by Day

Marc's Multi-media Messages

by Mostafa Kamal Majumder

A primitive man is caught unawares by a bear. The man, frightened as he is, screams to the limits of his voice and continues to scream and moan till he is killed.

The bear in turn is attacked by a group of primitive men armed with spears. They surround and kill it. This was a scene from a multi-media presentation on environmental awareness at Sonargaon Hotel in the city recently. The message was, many wild animals are on the verge of extinction due to indiscriminate killing.

The presentation was the last item of a day-long national workshop on 'Environmental Information and Education' organised by the Multidisciplinary Action Research Centre (MARC) on August 14. A member of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), MARC is engaged in building up an information base on the state of the environment in Bangladesh.

The workshop, inaugurated by Abdullah Al-Noman, State Minister for Environment and Forests, had two technical sessions in which a good number of papers were presented, and a business session for compilation of recommendations.

The workshop was attended by university researchers, representatives of research organisations, the mass media, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor agencies.

The next scene of the presentation was on thoughtless clearing of forests by the Aryans for agriculture. Native Indians try to make the Aryans understand the importance of forests but fail. There is famine and native rise in revolt against the Aryans. The scene ends with a suggestion that hillocks be levelled to grow more crops.

In the first scene there was only the language of different forms of primitive sounds. In the second classical-Bangla was used to take the audience to the days when the Aryans came to the subcontinent. The words used are hardly found in modern expressions. If this is meant for generating public awareness it is bound to fail, because the language was not liked by even an audience of highly educated people. It can easily be concluded that the messages cannot reach the commonman who is the target of such a presentation.

The next scene is on sufferings of Chernobyl nuclear disaster victims. The backdrop is a hospital. A physician tackles patients with the help of hospital staff. A physicist explains the

cause of the accident. A general who himself is a victim tries to put the blame on the physicist saying it was on the basis of their recommendations that the nuclear power plant was set up. Physicists had promised that the use of nuclear energy would be safe. The physician and the physicist asked the director of the plant why he had not warned the people about the risks and why the people living in the areas surrounding the reactor were not asked to run for safety.

The director of the plan says he was asked by the cabinet not to create panic among the people. The director is also affected and is destined to die. A US expert comes to help avert human tragedy. The physician and the physicist says the director should not be allowed to die. He should be given bone marrow transplant to survive and face people's condemnation for neglect of duty for the rest of his life. Another character tells the physicist — "You have created hell in the name of nuclear energy."

Here explanation of technical details of the accident is so elaborate that the human side of the story fail to dominate the theme. The language is again classical Bangla.

Then there is a scene on a 1989 Famine in an Indian state that forces people to migrate from rural to urban areas. An attempt is made to project the miseries of the people living in urban slums where diseases like cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery are most common. One viewer comments only one of the characters is a woman. Another says there is only one Muslim.

Two more scenes are on drought in Mexico and cyclones and floods in Bangladesh. Mexicans hold the US responsible for the drought. Human sufferings caused by cyclones and floods are projected.

The script of the presentation was written by Rahman Chowdhury of Abalokan theatre group. Chowdhury was also the director. The organisers chose to tell six stories within a span of forty-five minutes. There was also a short video show on natural disasters and destruction of forests.

It was as if the wood was difficult to perceive because of the trees. Nevertheless the presentation was a good attempt to develop a medium for raising environmental awareness. "It's an experimental show", said Monowar Hossain of MARC.

Messages to evoke response should be short and comprehensible.



Preparations for holding referendum discussed

An emergency meeting for holding the forthcoming referendum was held Saturday at the conference room of Dhaka District Collectorate Bhaban with the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Returning Officer of Dhaka District, Nazmul Alam Siddiqui in the chair, reports BSS.

Preparations for conducting

the referendum in a free and peaceful manner in all centres of Dhaka district and Dhaka Metropolitan area were discussed at the meeting.

All concerned officials have been directed in the meeting to discharge their duties with utmost responsibility and maintain law and order in the voting centre.

Officers of Dhaka City Corporation, Upazila Nirbahi Officers, District Election Officers and other officials in connection with the referendum were present at the meeting.

What's on today...

"Traditional life cycle ceremonies"

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in collaboration with the Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO is putting on show the 14th travelling photographic exhibition organized by the Asian Cultural Centre for UNESCO in Tokyo from 22 Asia and Pacific countries entitled "Traditional Life Cycle Ceremonies" at the Shilpakala Academy Gallery today (Sunday) at 5 pm.

Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury will inaugurate the 10-day exhibition and distribute prize and gifts among the Bangladeshi children who received awards at the recently concluded Asian Children's Art Festival organized by the Mitsubishi Impression Gallery, Japan.

Education Secretary ANM Yusuf who is also the Secretary General of the Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO will preside.

The exhibition will remain open for all till September 3, from 2 pm to 7 pm.

Training on productivity promotion

A five-day training course on productivity promotion, organised by the National Productivity Organisation, begins today (Sunday) at the NGO headquarters in the city.

The objective of the training course is to familiarise the participants with the concept benefits and measurement techniques of productivity.

Twenty-five mid level executives and trade union officials of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering, Sena Kalyan Sangstha, Standard Manufacturing Co. Limited and Janata Machine Tools Limited will participate in the course. On completion of the course, the participants will be awarded certificates.

Sher-e-Bangla Smriti Purashkar

"Shere Bangla Smriti Purashkar '90" (memorial award) will be distributed among the talented personalities in various fields at a formal ceremony to be held at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium in the city today (Sunday) at 5.30 pm.

Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas will attend the function as the chief guest. President of the BFUJ Reazuddin Ahmed, Joint Secretary of the Finance Ministry Ataul Karim and Dhaka District Deputy Commissioner AKM Nazmul Alam Siddiqui will be special guests on the occasion.

Organised by Bangladesh Youth Front central committee, the function will be followed by a cultural programme. Youth Front President Faruk Ahmed will be in the chair.

Anti-terrorism rally

Sammita Sangskritik Jote will hold a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the city today (Sunday) at 4.30 pm in protest against widespread violence in the country.

The rally to be followed by a procession, will be addressed by the representatives of students, teachers, intellectuals, lawyers, journalists, cultural activists, women and other communities.

Krishak Sramik Andolan rally

Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolan will hold a public rally in front of the Sadarghat IATA Terminal today (Sunday) at 4 pm.

Party chief Mohammad Sadek will address the rally, being held in demand of reduction of oil prices.

NAP (Bhasani) reception

National Awami Party (Bhasani) will accord a reception to Parveen Naser Khan Bhasani, wife of late Minister Abu Naser Khan Bhasani and Daughter-in-law of late Maulana Bhasani, on her joining the party at a ceremony at the party central office (295 Elephant Road) in the city today (Sunday) at 4 pm.

Party Chairman Prof Noor Mohammad Kazi will preside over the reception.

Badda residents' press confce

The residents of Zone-B plot of Badda in the city will hold a press conference today (Sunday) at 11 am at the National Press Conference in protest against acquisition of their land by the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkhya (RAJUK).

On behalf of the Zone-B plot, Mamatazuddin, Abul Hossain Talukder, Md Solaiman and Ahmed Ali will attend the press conference.

Rotary Club meeting

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Cosmopolitan will be held today (Sunday) at 5.30 pm at the CIRDAP auditorium, 17, Tophkhana Road, in the city.

Rtn. PDC MA Wahab will be present as guest speaker and speak on Rotary extension, Rotary information and membership development.

Drugs Resistance Committee

The oath-taking by the newly-elected office-bearers of Bangladesh Drugs Resistance Committee will take place at the organisation's office in the city today (Sunday) at 5 pm.

Organisation's Secretary Syed Rashid will conduct the oath.

— Compiled by NA

Weather

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Land depression over Orissa, Gangetic West Bengal, and Bihar weakened into a well-marked low and lies over Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and neighbourhood. Monsoon fairly active over Bangladesh and moderate elsewhere over north Bay.

Light to moderate rain thunder shower likely to occur at many places over Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi divisions. Day temperature is likely to rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

Rain or thundershower occurred at most places over Dhaka, Chittagong divisions and at many places over Rajshahi, Khulna divisions. Chief amounts of rainfall reported over Taknaf 12cm, Cox's Bazar and Kutubdia 8cm each. Fenl 5 cm and Chittagong 4 cm. Day temperature remained nearly unchanged over the country.

The highest temperature of 34.0 degree Celsius was reported at Rajshahi and the lowest 24.0 degree in Fenl.

The Sun sets on Sunday at 6:24pm and rises at 5:38 am on Monday.

Outlook for subsequent two days: "Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: No marked change. The temperature and humidity of some towns and cities on Saturday were:

Town/City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6pm
Dhaka	31.8	24.9	86	78
Chittagong	31.3	25.0	92	83
Rajshahi	34.0	25.0	92	86
Khulna	32.8	26.8	88	78
Cox's Bazar	30.0	25.0	95	77
Sylhet	32.2	25.6	83	82
Barisal	31.3	X	90	86
Rangpur	32.6	26.7	84	86
Srimangal	33.2	25.6	71	85
Jessore	31/6	16.7	X	X

Foundation of nuclear medical centre laid

Health Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf said Saturday the present government is determined to bring welfare to the people by making maximum utilisation of the country's limited resources, reports BSS.

"BNP government is accountable to the people. It has come to power to mean business, not to bluff the people," he said at the foundation laying ceremony of the Mymensingh Nuclear Medical Centre at Mymensingh Medical College (MMC).

The Nuclear Medical Centre is the 8th project of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy

Commission (BAEC). It is expected to be completed within one and a half years at a cost of Tk 80 lakh.

The Minister said the multifarious problems of the country could not be solved overnight and added that the government needed time to meet the demands of the people.

Terming the government employees' movement for revision of the pay scale as "provocative", he said the nation could not afford to pay more than what has been implemented by the government.

Yusuf pointed out that the development work was being hampered as 32 per cent of the national income was spent for salary and allowances of the government employees.

Chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission Dr. M A Mannan presided over the function which was also addressed by Director of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital Col Zahiruddin Ahmed, Principal of the College Dr Mofakkarul Islam and Additional Secretary of Science and Technology Division Habibur Rahman.

Referring to the allocation in the health sector, he said the government will spend 800 million US dollars of foreign aid in the health sector during the next four years.

He called upon the doctors to improve the health system by increasing management skills and utilizing the latest technology. Otherwise, he said, the World Bank will stop giving aid to Bangladesh.

The Health Minister later laid the foundation stone of the Nuclear Centre.

He assured the extension of the Mymensingh Medical College hostel and construction of an auditorium there.

He also visited the temporary Nuclear Centre and Coronary Care Unit inside the hospital complex.

TV Sunday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, programme summary
- 5.15 Recitation from the Bible
- 5.20 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Jhilimili
- 5.55 Cartoon film: Abbott and Costello
- 6.20 Sports programme: Cricket
- 7.05 Tagore songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Probaha
- 9.00 Drama series—Oahin
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Chhayachanda
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.45 Closing

Sangbad newsmen stage sit-in

By Staff Correspondent

Sangbad Unit of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) staged a seven-hour sit-in at the Sangbad Office Saturday to press home its 11-point demand.

DUJ leaders met the unit members and called the authorities to accept the demands without further delay.

Those arrived at the spot of sit-in include: DUJ President Jahurul Haq, General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, Joint Secretary M A Aziz, ex Vice-President Masud Nizami, and ex-General Secretary Akram Hossain Khan.

The Sangbad Unit of the DUJ in a statement said police entered the newspaper office during the programme.

Death anniversary

A day-long Quran Khwani and milad mahfil will be held at Raj Complex at 187, Elephant Road here today on the occasion of the first death anniversary of ASM Piroze, a former Ward Commissioner of Dhaka Municipal Corporation, reports BSS.

Relations, friends, and well-wishers have been requested to attend.

Students urged to keep vigilance against terrorists

State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan Saturday called upon the students to engage themselves in studies for building bright future for themselves, reports BSS.

He was addressing the installation ceremony of the newly elected students union of Nasirabad College in Mymensingh.

Presided over the Principal of the College Sheikh Abdul Qudus, the function was also addressed, among others, by Amirul Islam Hlro, MP.

The State Minister expressed his satisfaction after hearing that the college was free from terrorism and violence.

Lutfur Rahman Khan said some opportunist groups were trying to create disturbances in the educational institutions as well as in the society.

He exhorted the students and people to keep strict vigilance against the terrorists and miscreants.

The State Minister said the present government has firm faith in democracy and urged the people to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to further consolidate democracy.



Begum Sofia Kamal breaking fast of the Chhatra Union activists through serving of lemon water in front of the National Press Club Saturday. —Star photo

Poor ADP allocation in telecom sector alleged

Speakers at a seminar here Saturday underscored the need for increased allocation in the telecommunication sector for its developments, reports BSS.

They observed that telecommunication was an essential component in the process of development and a complement to other investments in raising productivity and efficiency of services.

Organised by Carl Duisberg Samity Bangladesh, the seminar of "the role of telecommunication in the context of developing countries" was held at the German Cultural Centre

and Goethe Institute in Dhaka.

Presided over by the Director General of International Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), Dr. A. M. Patwary, the seminar was addressed, among others, by Telephone Shilpa Sangstha, General Manager M. Fariduddin and General Secretary of Carl Duisberg Samity Syed Akhtar Jamal.

Fariduddin said though telecommunication was a profitable sector, the fund allocated for its development was meagre and the percentage of

allocation in the ADP was decreasing every year.

He said well-planned privatisation of telecommunication service could help rapid expansion of the sector to meet the growing demand of the people.

Prof. Patwary said Bangladesh should go for market economy for faster development of telecommunication. He said Bangladeshis living abroad would also be interested to invest in this sector as it was profit earning.

He said the efficiency in T and T should be increased and the existing lines should be made workable.

Student fronts demand reopening of institutions

By DU Correspondent

Various student organisations held sit-in demonstrations in front of the Secretariat Saturday demanding immediate reopening of all closed educational institutions.

The demonstrating students held the Ministry of Home Affairs responsible for its failure to arrest the armed hoodlums.

They also demanded immediate arrest and trial of the campus terrorists and recovery of illegal arms.

The student organisations which staged sit-in are Samaytantrik Chhatra Front, Chhatra Maitree and Biplabi Chhatra Sangha.

The Samaytantrik Chhatra front sit-in was addressed by Belal Chowdhury, Mostafa Kamal, Rajkuzumaran Ratan, Naimuddin, Azimuddin and Maksud Ibne Rahman.

They said some student organisations were tarnishing the glorious image of the students by creating terrorism on the campus. They are also hindering a healthy student movement, they added.

They blamed the government for its failure to control the situation and called upon all progressive forces to gear up the movement for realising the aspirations of the student community.

The Chhatra Maitree rally was addressed by Nur Ahmed Bakul and Rajib Ahsan Munna. They said that terrorism that gripped the educational institutions of the country must not be allowed to continue further.

The Biplabi Chhatra Sangha

rally was addressed by Muslehuddin Shaheen and Zulfiqar Ali Jewel.

Meanwhile, Chhatra Federation held a rally and brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus demanding immediate reopening of the University.

The rally, addressed by Ahad Ahmed and Udaya Pal, criticized the government for its not taking effective measures yet to reopen the University.

Hunger strike

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), the students wing of CPB, observed a hunger strike in front of the National Press Club demanding immediate reopening of the closed educational institutions.

About 200 students, including Nasiruddoza and Ruhin Hossain Prince, president and general secretary respectively of BCU, participated in the hunger strike.

Begum Sofia Kamal, Jahannara Imam, Prof Shahadat Ali, Panna Kaisar, Fayez Ahmed, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Hasanul Itiq Inu, Dr Rangalal Sen, Mostafizur Rahman, Nazrul Huq Pradhan, Nur Ahmed Bakul, Belal Chowdhury and others addressed the BCU students.

They said the nation would have to be unite again like '69 and '90 to resist terrorism and anarchy, that were unleashed throughout the country.

The students continued the hunger strike from 10 am to 5.30 pm.

Safety factors of irradiated foods discussed

Dr G Giddings, an international expert on nuclear techniques in food and agriculture, Saturday visited the office of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) in Dhaka and discussed with the CAB executives different aspects of irradiated foods including safety factors and their wholesomeness, reports BSS.

They held the view that the consumers should be provided with adequate information on the scientific findings of irradiated foods as regards their safety and fitness for human consumption.

They also discussed different steps to be taken to make the people aware about irradiated foods.

Dr Giddings, who is working with the food preservation section of the joint FAO and IAEA division of nuclear techniques in food and agriculture, is now visiting Bangladesh in connection with IAEA assisted projects of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC).

BAEC scientists M A Matin and A Dayan Bhuiyan, CAB General Secretary Sarwar Jaham and CAB member DR Ahsan Ali Khan participated in the discussion.

Students urged not to damage BRTC buses

The workers and employees of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) Saturday urged the students to refrain from damaging BRTC buses, a BRTC press release said here, reports BSS.

The press release said "eight BRTC buses were damaged in different parts of the city in two days on August 17 and 18. These buses were damaged while the students from different schools brought out processions rejecting the new SSC examination system."

"It has become noticeable the different quarters on any complaint against the government created problems and clashes on the streets and damaged BRTC buses considering them as government property to fulfil their anger. To realise any kind of demand, the demonstrators consider damaging of BRTC buses as their weapon, the press release added.

Operation Doorbar: 1979 more arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Police under its Operation Doorbar drive have arrested 1979 persons and recovered 26 illegal arms from different parts of the country during the last 48 hours ending on Saturday.

The recovered arms include one rifle, one revolver, two pistols, 22 pipe-guns and 647 rounds of ammunition, according to a press release.

The arrested persons included absconding prisoners, miscreants, mastans and anti-social elements.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police recovered nine firearms, 31 explosives and 8 rounds of ammunition from different parts of the city during the last three days.

DMP also arrested 41 mastans and muggers, 41 accused criminals and another 30 persons against whom warrants were issued.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

This is to advise that M.V. "ASIAN MERMAID" Voy 10-A is expected to arrive at Chittagong on or about 28-08-1991, carrying cargoes with vehicles from Japanese Ports.

Consignees are requested to arrange clearance of their consignments as soon as possible after discharge. It is advised that consignments not cleared within 45 days from the date of arrival of the vessel are liable to be sold in auction by Customs Authority without any reference to the Consignees.

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