

Dhaka Day by Day

**One for Sorrow,
Two for Joy**

by Tulip Ibrahim

'Are you superstitious? The answer to this question could begin with, "Of course, I'm not. But..." And here a note of uncertainty creeps in. Superstitions are supposed to be baseless. Yet like an invisible chain they bind the thoughts and actions of many men and women. Ignorant people leave their faith to superstitions. But what about the educated people who find themselves under the wings of blind beliefs? This unseen force offers relishing possibilities for some. At the same time it could haunt the mind with bad omens. How wild these imaginations are! We loose our reasons and grope into a dark future. Good and the bad omens take firm hold of our unconscious self. Willingly or unwillingly we allow ourselves to be influenced by the unexplained, unfathomable phenomena. Superstition becomes a puzzling riddle when peculiarly enough some of them respond correctly.

Perhaps one shouldn't pay heed to what I'm saying but do you know about the wonderful predictions your beauty spots could make? The sayings go like this: Spots in eye make you cry. Spots on the foot make you buy. Spots on the hands make you bake. Spots on the tooth take you to grave.

There are signs and symptoms which could tell about arrival of guests. Listen carefully. Do you hear a crow calling on the west? Did your child take the broom in the hands? Have you been dropping things all day long? Have the two of you been talking at a time? All these should be cautioning you to prepare yourself for unexpected guests. These guest announcements were invented when other communications were slow. Even now in our country guests drop in unannounced. The value of the guests will depend on the entertainment measures. So watch for those signals and be ready! Have you fallen in love? Are you waiting for

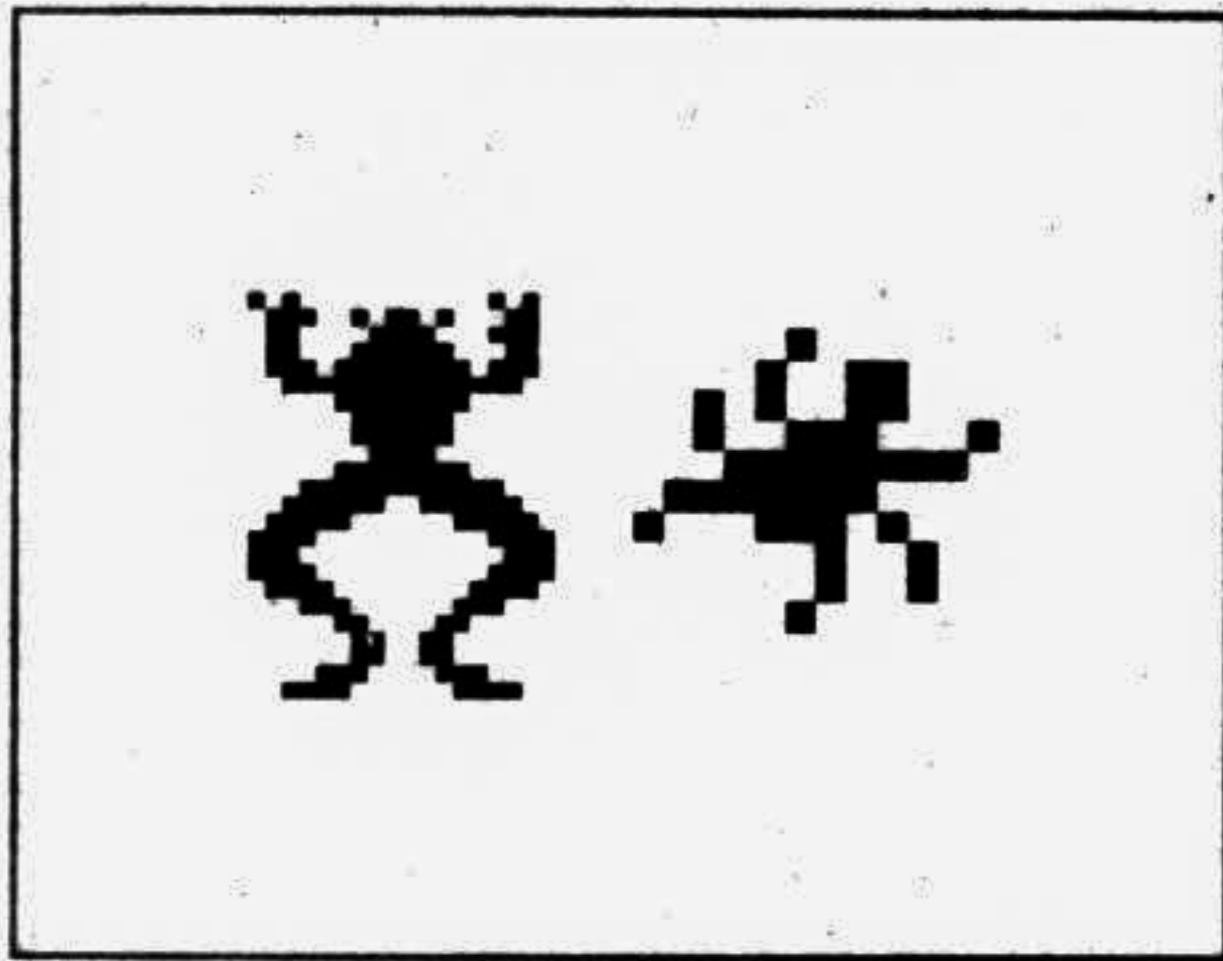
those special letters? Watch for the maynaha. The birds are efficient in predicting the future. Depending on how many you see at a time, the saying goes like this:

One for sorrow
Two for Joy
Three for letter etc.
Aha! Have you seen three birds together? Then keep hoping the letter may come soon! These omens go on to number ten. How effectively nature has extended its hands to man! In nature primitive man found causes for good and evils. Women were restricted from various night time activities. Strangely enough the superstition of the dark still casts shadows on our mind under electric lights!

Let's go to village superstitions. Once there you'll be bound with invisible chains of command. The fears of bad omens and anticipations of good omens follow in every step. The mothers-in-law and the dominating husbands have made the rules to their own convenience. "Don't eat before members of the family have taken en food. Don't eat the chicken breast because you'll have a girl child etc." The villagers are practically handicapped by thousands of superstitions.

Spiders could well be leading you to great fortunes. Spiders on yourself? Don't shrink at the idea. Spiders are marks of new arrivals, new houses, new clothes, new cars etc. If you wear clothes inside-out, that also brings in new clothes. Man lives with hopes. No wonder the symbols were invented to keep on hoping for new things.

Superstition in the child of ignorance, folly and unreason. Through the stages of civilization, through cultural and social changes there existed classes who were beneficiaries of these rituals. But would you believe that the itching of the right-hand palm brings in a lot of money? So get ready to open your bank ac-



'Political determination needed to raise literacy rate'

International Literacy Day is being observed Sunday in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world, reports BSS.

Various governmental and socio-cultural organisations are holding programmes marking the day.

The Mass Education Programme of the Ministry of Education and Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO jointly held a seminar in the morning on the occasion at the National Museum auditorium.

Former Chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission S.M. Al-Hossainy attended the seminar as the chief guest while ex-Director of Public Instruction Mohammad Ferdous Khan was present as the special guest. Education Secretary A.N.M. Eusuf presided.

Joint Secretary (Development) of the Ministry of Education Nooruddin Mahmud Kamal presented a key note paper on "our education system and alternate structure."

Al-Hossainy said a strong political determination was needed for raising the literacy rate to the desired level.

He said among the basic needs — food, clothing, shelter, education and medicare — the condition of education is the most pitiable in Bangladesh.

He observed the situation would improve if the education sector is regarded as the most priority sector.

Ferdous Khan said all concerned should come forward to eradicate the curse of illit-

eracy. The government alone could not solve it, he added.

Lions Club

Education Secretary ANM Eusuf Sunday said the government was pursuing its efforts to free the nation from the curse of illiteracy by the year 2000, reports BSS.

He hoped people would take part in government's programmes to eradicate illiteracy from the country.

Eusuf was addressing as the chief guest at a function held in observance of the "International Literacy Day" and organised by Lions Club of Dhaka Central in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) at the UNIC auditorium in the city.

The function was addressed, among others, by the UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh, Cole P. Dodge, UNDP Assistant Representative in Dhaka, Bruno J. Ponezat, Lt. Governor of Lions District 315-B M Shahjahan Khadem and Editor of Daily Janapad M. Haider Choudhury. Lions club of Dhaka Central President Dr. Abdul Baten Khan presided.

The Education Secretary said socio-economic development of the country was not possible keeping the vast majority of the population illiterate.

Lauding the role of the UNESCO and the UNICEF, Eusuf hoped that their programmes would be further strengthened to eliminate illiteracy from Bangladesh.

The Mass Literacy Programme of the Ministry of

Education and Bangladesh UNESCO National Commission held a discussion on the occasion at the auditorium of the National Museum with Education Secretary A. N. M. Eusuf in the chair.

Speakers at a discussion meeting on the occasion of "International Literacy Day" Sunday called on all concerned to resist violence and restore congenial atmosphere in the country's educational institutions, reports UNB.

They also urged the government to expand primary education throughout the country to accelerate the pace of literacy in the country.

Institute of Rural Journalists (IRJ) and Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRH) organised the meeting in the city with IRJ General Secretary Rokeya Nurunnesa in the chair.

The meeting was also addressed by Secretary General of BHRH Md. Saiful Islam Dildar, its Director of Law Affairs Advocate S. N. Goswami and Director of IRJ Abdul Halim Bhutyan.

Referring to the universal declaration of the United Nations on Human Rights, the meeting said that education, being one of the basic human rights, must be ensured in prime national interest for the greater good of the broad masses.

The meeting also asked the government to provide feed back support to the NGOs to increase the country's literacy rate, which is still in rudimentary stage.

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Turn referendum into a movement: CEC

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rauf Sunday called upon the people to take part in September 15 referendum for maintaining constitutional continuity and strengthening the footing of democracy, reports BSS.

He was addressing a corollary of people including the local elite and officials of government, semi-government and autonomous bodies at the Manikgonj Town Hall in the morning.

Explaining the significance of the forthcoming referendum the Chief Election Commissioner said despite passing the 12th Amendment Bill unanimously at the Jatiya Sangsad, it could not be turned into law without the approval of the people. The Acting President has sought the people's verdict through the referendum whether he would give his accent to the bill, or

not, he added. Justice Rauf said, the sanctity of the election will have to be protected at any cost. He called upon the conscious section of the people to turn the referendum into a "movement" for consolidating the foundation of democracy.

Addressing another rally at Munshigonj, the Election Commissioner Justice Syed Misbahuddin Hossain said, the coming referendum was very significant for the whole nation as it was the first time that a referendum was being held on the question of Constitutional amendment.

He said, a very important issue like the system of government would be decided through referendum for the first time.

AL MPs urged to make referendum a success

Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament and Publicity Secretary of Awami League Mohammad Nasim Sunday called upon all Parliament Members of his party to take up all-out measures in their respective areas for making the forthcoming referendum a success, reports BSS.

In a statement Nasim said, we had initiated a historic era by signing in the 12th Constitution Amendment Bill in parliament for establishing parliamentary system of government as pledged by Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina.

Now it should be fulfilled through casting 'yes' votes in the coming referendum in favour of the parliamentary system of government, he said.

CPB Congress in October

By Staff Correspondent

The fifth Congress of the Communist Party of Bangladesh will be held between October 3 and 8 at the Institution of Engineers according to a press release issued on Sunday.

Steps have already been taken to make the party congress a success. Daily meetings of the Congress Organising Committee are being held regularly.

The central leaders have already completed visits to most districts and upazilas of the country.

Lopa's Qul Khwani today

The Qul Khwani of Nabila Kabir (Lopa Chowdhury), eldest daughter of Amanullah Chowdhury, MP and Secretary of Bulbul Lalitkala Academy and eminent dancer Rahiza Khanam will be held today after Asr prayer at her parents residence at 1, B. K. Ganguli Road, Kayetully in the city, reports BSS.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the Qul Khwani.

Rotary Club to set up population data bank in each village

Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka will set up population data bank in each village of the country, reports UNB.

The scheme was disclosed at an assembly of the Club held here Sunday on the occasion of the official visit of the Governor of District 3280, Rotary International, Prof Jalaluddin Ahmed.

Starting from village Mazikara in Brahmanbaria district, the Club will cover 25 villages by 1993 setting up the population data bank to help

formulate family planning and socio-economic uplift programmes.

The bank will collect data on village-wise population, birth and death rates, profession and socio-economic activities.

Prof Jalaluddin visited Ananda Niketan, a school for destitute children, run by the Club at Kalabagan in the city.

He handed over a cheque for Tk 10,000 donated by the club members for development of the school.

Half-day work stoppage at JU

By JU Correspondent

The employees of Jahangirnagar University observed a half-day work stoppage on Sunday demanding utilisation of their 14-point charter of demands.

The programme was jointly organised by the Jahangirnagar University Employees Union (JUUE) and the Jahangirnagar University Employees Association (JUAEA).

The JUAEA and JUUE at a rally held Sunday on the campus threatened to go for greater movement if their demands were not fulfilled immediately.

Weather

Heavy rains likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met Office has forecast heavy falls at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Comilla and Sylhet during the next 24 hours commencing from 6 pm on Sunday.

It also forecast rain or thundershower with moderately heavy falls accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong division and at many places over Khulna division.

Day temperature is likely to remain unchanged over the country during the period.

Light to moderate rainfall recorded at many places on Sunday were Srimangal-20mm, Comilla-9mm, Sandwip-7mm, Rangpur and Sylhet-6mm each, Feni-3mm, Rangamati, Ishurdi, Mymensingh, Bogra and Dinajpur-2mm each and Dhaka and Dinajpur-1mm each.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days : Weather may improve.

The highest temperature was recorded on Sunday at Seikhira and the lowest at Mymensingh. Sunset today (Monday) at Dhaka at 6-10 pm and sunrise tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5-43 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at major cities and towns on Sunday were :

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.3	24.5	97	89
Chittagong	32.5	25.6	85	83
Rajshahi	33.0	24.4	92	83
Khulna	33.0	25.0	86	85
Dinajpur	30.4	24.7	97	90
Mymensingh	28.6	22.5	93	90
Sylhet	31.2	24.5	85	82
Srimangal	31.9	25.6	85	90
Cox's Bazar	30.5	24.8	92	82
Seikhira	33.2	25.0	92	73

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	(Figure in Crore)	
	1990	1989
01. GROSS PREMIUM	10.73	10.34
02. GROSS CLAIM	8.84	2.81
03. NET PROFIT	2.41	2.28
04. BANK DEPOSIT	18.00	14.64
05. INVESTMENT	1.16	1.09
06. RESERVES AND SURPLUS	6.55	5.54
07. DIVIDEND	22 1/2 %	18 %
08. TOTAL ASSETS	26.04	21.59

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