

Dhaka Day by Day

Winged Squatters in Ramna

By Naren Paul

For indiscriminate felling of trees in the country lives of birds and animals are being seriously threatened.

The loss of trees and sheer human pestering have been particularly hard on the bats who are suffering from a large-scale loss of their living support.

And thus they began to settle in hundreds and thousands and make a colony in the Ramna Park. Like myriads of closed umbrellas the swarming bats are seen hanging head down from the branches of rain trees standing on the southern side of the Ramna Lake.



As the day dawns they begin to gather after having dinners of infected fruits and bananas in the the outskirts of Keraniganj, Gulshan, Banani, Badda, Dhanmondi, Uttara etc. return to their habitat in the Ramna Park, grasp the branches and throw themselves into roosting and hanging undisturbed.

According to wildlife biologists there are 980 species of bats in the world. Except in the polar regions bats are found everywhere in the world.

In Bangladesh the largest bat is the Teropus, locally known as Kolabador, and the smallest Pipistrell, which feed on legions of mosquitoes and live in the crevices of trees and in the corner of the houses. They scoop up insects with their tail.

The bats have their contributions in controlling pests and cleansing the environment. Pteropus eat infected fruits first. If they would not eat them, other fruits would have been affected. Bat excreta that accumulate under the trees make good fertilizer for kitchen gardens.

Bat population is falling drastically in Bangladesh. A study conducted in 1983 attributed it to loss of habitat resulting from loss of trees.

Bats are nocturnal animals. A bat sends out sounds from its mouth. The sound waves, most of it beyond human hearing, keep going until they hit something like an insect or a tree. Then the sound bounces back to the bat and gives it a kind of imaging rather like the radar. The bat then knows where it is flying and where the insects are.

Fruit bats choose bamboo clusters, tamarind, mango or keora trees for roosting and living. Year after year they make their colonies on the same tree clinging with their feet the branches and having their heads down. They pick up quarrels sometimes in sharing the branch.

In the evening they fly over the city outskirts where they find guavas, bananas and other fruits. We have a misunderstanding that bats damage our ripe fruits. But biologists say bats eat the infected fruits first. Unless they eat those infected ones the other ones would not grow.

Besides bats contribute to afforestation with the dispersal of seeds of banyan, guava, berry trees. There is no fruit bearing trees in Ramna Park except Mahua, a kind of berry which brings intoxication. In summer when Mahua berries ripe, fruit-bats drop over the trees and enjoy Mahua. The banyan figs are their other favourite food.

Sometimes they are seen flying over the lake perhaps to drink water. The bat gives birth to a blind baby, sometimes a twin. Between March and June they deliver most of their babies. Within a few days of delivery their eyes open up. Mother bats nurse their youths with their own milk. The mother and their furless babies snuggle together. The baby suckles and grips her in such a way that it does not fall even when the mother flies on a distant journey. When the suckling period is over it flies away and keeps no relations with the mother.

In the western countries they observe 'bat weeks' to save them from extinction. In Bangladesh such weeks or some programme should be adopted for the safety of these animal-like birds. For ecological balance and in order not to rob nature of its diversity, we should desist from cutting old trees and force the bats to disappear.



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to celebrate the 56th birth anniversary of late President Ziaur Rahman.

Govt help to free garment industries from unrest sought

By Staff Correspondent

Authorities of two city-based garment factories at a press conference on Sunday sought government cooperation in freeing the country's garment industries from unrest being instigated by, what they said, different political parties.

However, they declined to name any political party blamed for such instigation. Addressing the press conference at 'Sangri La' Chinese restaurant at Banani in the city, Mrs S N Haq, Director of Dosung (Bangladesh) Limited and Chairman of Athena Garments Industries Limited, alleged that the vested quarter was conspiring to destroy the country's garment industries, in a planned way.

The government should protect the country's export-oriented industrial units like the garment industry for promotion of export, Mrs Haq said.

She accused the members of some political parties of resorting to clashes which led the two factories closed indefinitely since January 17 last. Mrs Haq also termed the demands raised by the factory workers as illogical. Authorities suspended 20 of about 1000 workers of the two factories in connection with the clashes there, she added.

Replying to a question, she said a small segment of the factory workers being backed by the hired mastaans were disturbing normalcy causing halt to production. Following closure of the two factories, she said, export order worth Taka about three crore might be cancelled. Mrs Haq was assisted by other officials of the factories.

Malaysian envoy meets Golam Hafiz

Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Tunku Datuk Nazihah Binte Mohammed Rus Sunday called on Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz at his office in Bangladesh Secretariat, reports BSS.

The High Commissioner stayed with the minister for sometime and discussed with him various matters of bilateral interest.

JS body on Ministry of Communications meet held

The government has taken up a massive maintenance programme in the roads sector at a cost of Tk 130 crore, reports BSS.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed said this at the 3rd meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Communication held at the Committee Room of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban here Sunday.

Ahmed, who is also the Chairman of the Committee, said more twenty-one roads and 23 bridges had been identified for immediate maintenance. He said the present government was contemplating to take some steps to bring about revolutionary changes in the communication sector.

Advocate Abdul Karim MP, Md Shamsul Haque MP and Golam Mohammad Siraj MP, attended the meeting.

Monday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, programme summary.
5.10 News in Bangla.
5.20 Recitation from the Geeta.
5.30 Cartoon-The Great Space Coaster.
6.00 Sports programme.
6.30 Shikhhangon: Educational programme.
7.05 TV debate.
8.00 News in Bangla.
8.30 Aponar Shastha (Your Health).
9.00 Barnali.
10.00 News in English.
10.25 Parliament roundup.
10.35 Film show - Rescue.
10.30 Khabar/The News.
11.40 Tuesday's programme. Recitation from Holy Quran.
11.45 Closing.

Cyclone preparedness course to be introduced in secondary schools

By Staff Correspondent

The government has decided to include cyclone preparedness and disaster management course in the secondary school study programme.

Speaking at the inaugural session of a workshop on 'Improving cyclone warning response and mitigation' in the capital Sunday, the State Minister for Education Principal Md Yunus Khan said the course would be included for educating people to cope with natural disasters.

The two-week-long workshop is organised by Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (APDC) of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok in collaboration with South Asian Disaster Management Centre (SADMC) of International University of business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT).

The Commission of the European Communities (CEC) sponsored the workshop.

The Deputy Leader of the Parliament Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury attended the function as chief guest chaired by Iubat President Prof. Alimullah Miyan. The State Minister for Education attended the session as special guest while Director of Meteorology Department MHI Khan Chowdhury, CEC Ambassador Jacques Bailly, Course Director RI Bob Southern and Co-ordinator of the workshop Terry Jegge also spoke.

Thirty six experts from India, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and host Bangladesh are participating in the workshop, the fifth in a series of eight workshops on cyclone warning response sponsored by CEC.

Inaugurating the workshop, Prof Chowdhury termed frequent cyclonic disasters as the 'regional hazard' for the densely populated subcontinent.

He called for meaningful cooperation of the states around the Bay of Bengal to share knowledge in cyclone management programme.

Yunus Khan proposed for expert-level consultation promoting South South Cooperation and said the experts of the region could work together under the SAARC banner.

The workshop will focus on sharing the expertise of the countries on cyclone warning system for reducing loss of life and damage to properties.

One lakh copies of Quran to be printed

Government has decided to print one lakh copies of the Al Quran, reports BSS.

Islamic Foundation has already given work order to its own press to print 50 thousand copies of Al Quran. Islamic Foundation Press Workers Union yesterday in a statement demanded the work order for the rest 50 thousand copies to help salvage the Islamic Foundation press from chronic loss.

4 Bangladeshis to attend literary confce in India

Four prominent poet, folklorist and singers of Bangladesh have been invited to the week-long 12th Barak Valley Banga-Bharatiya Sahitya Sammelan, beginning in Kartimganj of Assam district in India on February 1, reports BSS.

The Bangladeshis invited at the Sammelan are: Poet Shamsur Rahman, Folklorist Dr Ashraf Siddiqui and singers Dr Sanjida Khatun and Ferdous Rahman, according to a press release.

Noted poets and writers of the sub-continent will attend the Sahitya Sammelan.

Kabul not receiving arms from Moscow

Afghan Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Nabi Sunday lauded the present US role for bringing about a peaceful settlement of the 12-year-old civil war in his country.

'Possibility of peace is brighter than ever before as there is no report of supply of the US arms to warring Mujahideen since January 1 this year,' Nabi told UNB.

Moscow and Washington, according to the joint announcement in last September, was to cease delivery of weapons to the Kabul regime and the Mujahideen respectively from January 1 to create a congenial atmosphere for negotiations.

The head of the Afghan mission said that his government has not been receiving arms from Moscow since mid December last year.

On the other hand, Washington is also learnt to have suspended delivery of weapons to the Mujahideens, he said. 'It's a good gesture on the part of the US, a guarantee of the Geneva Agreement', Nabi said.

The three other signatories of the accord signed in 1988, are the former Soviet Union, Pakistan and the Moscow backed Kabul government. 'Non-delivery of arms is a

positive step towards the peaceful solution of the problem,' Afghan diplomat remarked.

He expressed the hope that Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia and all others concerned would come forward with the same spirit to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

The Charge d'Affaires, however, reiterated his government's stand that solution will only come through a country-wide election under the UN resolutions.

UK Ophthalmologist due tomorrow

Dr. Stephen Murray FRCS, a famous Ophthalmologist of United Kingdom, Consultant, Glasgow Eye Hospital will be visiting Bangladesh from January 21 to 26, says a press release.

During visit he will examine some complicated eye patients at Lions Eye Hospital.

Interested patients are requested to make prior appointment after getting examined by the Consultant of Lions Eye Hospital, Agargaon, Dhaka. No new patient will be enlisted on the date of his visit.

What's on today . . .

National Drama Festival '91 Today's drama of the National Drama Festival will be staged by Rangan Natyagoshthi of Dhaka at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at 6.30 pm. The title of the drama is 'Juge Juge Abdul'. The drama was written and directed by Siraj Haidar. Ritwik Film Society Ritwik Film Society will celebrate the winning of Special Academy Award by noted film maker Satyajit Roy by organising 'Satyajit week' from today (Monday) at the German Cultural Centre at Dhanmondi. The inaugural function of the week-long programme will be presided over by Ali Zaker. Parvez Reza will introduce a paper on the life and works of the valiant film maker at the function while journalist Wahidul Huq, Prof Syed Manzurul Islam and Tarvir Mokammel will participate in the discussion. The inaugural function will begin at 5.30 pm. Rotary Club of Dhaka Central The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today (Monday) at 1.30 pm at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Moitri Samity Moitri Samity, a voluntary organisation has convened a press conference today (Monday) at 4 pm at the National Press Club to inform one of its project to help the accident-affected poor people. Khulna Samity A meeting of the Executive body of the greater Khulna Samity will be held today (Monday) at its office at Purana Paltan. . . . and tomorrow Press Conference Bangladesh Praktari Samorik Karmachari Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity has convened a press conference tomorrow (Tuesday) at 11 am at the National Press Club. Samajtantrik Chhatra Front Samajtantrik Chhatra Front will organise a discussion meeting tomorrow (Tuesday) at 11 am at the 'battala' of Dhaka University on the occasion of its 8th Founding Anniversary. BSD leader Khalequzzaman, JSD leader Hasanul Huq Inu, NAP leader Pankaz Bhattacharya and Badaruddin will participate in the discussion.

Weather

Night temperature may fall Another cold wave of mild intensity has started sweeping across the country Sunday evening, Met office said, reports UNB. It forecast a fall of night temperature by 1 to 3 degree Celsius over the country excepting the regions of Chittagong and Noakhali. Country's lowest temperature was recorded 7.2 degree Celsius in Khulna while the highest 26 degree at Sitakund. Sunday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 23.4 degree Celsius and the minimum 13.4 degrees. Percentage of humidity was 85 in the morning and 54 in the evening. Sun sets today (Monday) at 5.36 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6.44 am.

Plea to take decision about BUET teacher

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Teachers' Association (BUET-TA) has urged the university authorities to take a decision about Dr. Nizam Ahmed, Associate Professor of Architecture Department, on the basis of the report of the Inquiry Committee formed by the BUET Vice-Chancellor, reports BSS.

An emergency meeting of the Association held in Dhaka Saturday with Prof. Ali Murtaza, its president in chair, condemned the negotiation held between the teachers and students of Architecture Department and said this forum had no legal ground to decide such administrative activities.

The meeting observed that punishment was necessary for the students involved in slogan-mongering, making press release and demanding the dismissal of Dr. Nizam Ahmed.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nizam Ahmed was shifted from undergraduate course to masters course after a negotiation between the teachers and students of Architecture Department to fulfil the demand of the students.

Congratulations To SHIMUL Wish you all the best in your new school. From: Abbu, Ammu & only loving brother Sayem

HAPPY . TO . TO TO RUMKI From: Nana, Nani, Abbu, Ammu, Ammi, Mama, Rupam

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SHARMEEN From: Abbuji, Ammuji Ifham & Sarf.

It's new just for you The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges. For booking details, please contact: Advertisement Manager Phone: 245063 PABX: 245061-2 & 246023-4. Ext: 20

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES The containerised cargo ex. m.v. 'Bremen Senator' V-EM201 from Copenhagen, Oslo, Hamburg, Antwerp, Khorfakkan have been relayed to M.V. 'FONG SHIN' V-9201 Import Rotation No. 34/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 22.1.92 from Singapore. Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs act. BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LIMITED. 103, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong. As Agents: D.S.R. LINES LTD, ROSTOCK. Phones: 500440, 503317, 500686/88.

At Reliance Your Security Comes First With its strong back-up of human resources, indepth know-how and wealth of experience, Reliance is fully geared to meet all your general insurance requirements in a fast changing world. EXPERIENCE \* STRENGTH \* SECURITY RELIANCE INSURANCE LIMITED BSB BUILDING, 8 RAJUK AVENUE DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH Phone: PABX: 240105-6, 235080 Telex: 671186 RIL BJ