

Dhaka Day by Day

Mums in Waiting!

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Waiting is definitely one of the most tiresome of occupations. But for most people it is a part of life and something to be put up with regardless of the inconvenience or irritation. Take women for instance who have probably perfected this test of patience. They have to wait for their husbands to come home after work, their in-laws to accept them and then have the added pleasure of having to wait for their children to come home after school. This last 'activity' or lack of it has taken on a curious turn in this city. While the children are inside the school taking lessons or taking their break, their ever so devoted mothers are outside the school gates waiting for their little darlings. This may go on from 2 to 5 hours depending on when the child finishes school. Since the school premises are too small to accommodate the guardians they have little option but to wait outside on the pavement. on



Sometimes a place to sit is too much to ask for

the steps of an office building, or any space they are fortunate enough to find. During this waiting period, the mothers have ample time to pour out their hearts to each other or in other words engage in one of life's pleasurable activities — gossip.

But why wait instead of dropping the kid and picking him/her up when classes give over? For most of these women it is both inconvenient and expensive to make so many trips. Some live as far as old Dhaka and Narayanganj for which reason waiting is cheaper and far less tiring than travelling up and down in heavy traffic for hours on end. Being mostly from middle class backgrounds they have to rely on some sort of public transport for commuting. Security, therefore, is another reason for waiting. Says Mrs. Islam who waits up to 3 hours for her son in class I, "Nowadays taking a rickshaw or scooter is so risky that two trips a day is more than enough. And I don't send a servant to pick the children up because I would die of tension waiting at home!"

Another reason for such long commutes is that there aren't enough 'good' which invariably mean 'English Medium' schools to choose

made a few bridges." And so go on such unbridled conversations!

With 2-4 hours to kill many of the women bring in their knitting or sewing. But gossiping seems to overrule all other activities. During such interactions friendships are formed and many interesting things happen. One lady informs me that she managed to get her brother-in-law a perfect bride just through these casual chats. Another claims she has helped her husband make many a business deal because she got to know the wife of a client who like her used to wait for her child outside school! Now who ever said that gossiping was an unproductive activity?

But in spite of the 'joys' of such heart to heart talks, the inconvenience is always there. Rain, hail storm or scorching heat, these ladies have to wait whether they get a place to sit or a shade to stand under or not. Most of them would welcome a school bus picking and dropping their children and all of them would be grateful for some sort of waiting area within the school premises. For now, however, they must reconcile themselves in being patient mums in waiting!

Tourism Week begins Feb 24

A Tourism Week will be observed from February 24 to March 1, for creating tourism awareness among the tourists both home and abroad, says a press release.

To observe the Week in a befitting manner, a National Committee has been formed headed by Additional Secretary in-charge, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

The National Committee has already drawn up an elaborate programme to mark the occasion.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the Week on February 23, at Osmani Auditorium.

The week-long programme includes, a seminar on 'Tourism industry in Bangladesh by the year 2000', day-long 'Craft Show' at Hotel Sonargaon, inauguration of 'Tourists Desk' at Hotel Sonargaon, Sheraton and Purbani, Vintage Car Exhibition at Hotel Sheraton, Golf tournament at Cox's Bazar, River Cruise at reduced rate, Tribal feast, Dhaka Fun Run, decoration of traditional transports of Bangladesh like Rickshaw, Horse cart, Bullock cart etc and Bangladesh Food Fair at Sheraton Hotel, etc.

Besides, an essay competition will be held for the college and University Students on 'Role of Tourism in Economic Development', the press release added.

Relief for cyclone victims of Kushtia

The government Saturday sanctioned 50 metric tons of rice, Taka 50,000 in cash and house-building grant of Taka one lakh as gratuitous relief for distribution among the people of Mirpur and Sadar upazilas of Kushtia, including Kushtia town, affected by Friday's cyclone, reports BSS.



Adhunik brought a procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of its fortnight-long anti-tobacco mobile campaign. — Star photo

Make anti-tobacco campaign a social movement: B Chowdhury

Adhunik, an anti-smoking voluntary organisation, Saturday started mobile anti-tobacco campaign throughout the country with a view to making the general people aware of the dangers of smoking and tobacco use, reports BSS.

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury inaugurated the campaign programme at the Jatiya Press Club premises in Dhaka in the morning.

The mobile anti-tobacco campaign is aimed at reaching the vast majority of poor and illiterates through popular slogans like 'Jari Gaan' and 'Palli Geet' which they can understand easily, and through pamphlets and posters that some

of them can read and understand.

Health Secretary M Mokammel Haq attended the inaugural function as the special guest while 'Adhunik' President National Professor Dr Nurul Islam presided.

Speaking on the occasion Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury himself a noted physician, called for concerted efforts of the government, people and the press for turning the anti-tobacco campaign into a social movement.

The mass people who are not aware of the danger of tobacco use must be made conscious on the subject, he pointed out.

The Health Secretary said tobacco use was a potential

threat to health. This simple message must be reached to the people through different ways and methods, he said.

Dr Nurul Islam said the educated and socially advantageous groups were gradually giving up this deadly habit but the innocent poor were falling victims to the mischievous propaganda and alluring advertisement by the tobacco companies.

He hoped that the mobile anti-tobacco campaign would be able to attract, educate and caution the people and induce at least some of them to protect themselves against the curse of tobacco.

Later, some anti-tobacco 'Jari Gaan' and 'Palli Geet' were presented.

Construction work of Bochhila Road in progress

Work is in progress for the construction of a 5,000-foot long road from Mohammadpur flood control embankment to Bochhila at a cost of Taka 46 lakh as per commitment of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar and Dhaka City Mayor Mirza Abbas yesterday saw the construction work at the site.

Addressing a spontaneous gathering there the Education Minister said the present government was trying to improve the lot of the common people and it had already fulfilled many of its political commitments.

Mirza Abbas also spoke on the occasion. Local BNP leaders and workers were present.

National confce on sanitation Feb 11

A national conference on 'the role and importance of Sanitation' will be held on February 11 at the Jatiya Sangsad compound at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, says a press release.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the National Conference. Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chaudhury Kamal Uddin Yousuf and Deputy Minister for LORD and C along with Secretaries for LORD and C (LO Division), and Health and Family Welfare will also speak on the occasion.

The national conference will be followed by a half-day seminar, with a keynote paper on sanitation in controlling diarrhoeal death and morbidity.

What's on today

Thomas Ansell Foundation

The Thomas Ansell foundation presents "Sounds, Shapes, Rhythms Images of Poetry" an evening of poetry recitation, at Notre Dame College today (Sunday) at 6 p.m.

Father Joseph Peixotto, Principal, Notre Dame College will be the chief guest.

Several poets will recite self composed poems, and poems from Thomas Ansell will be recited by the noted reciters.

Bangla Academy

Bangla Academy has organised a discussion meeting on "Problems of introducing Bengali dictionary" today (Sunday) at 4:30 pm at the Academy compound.

The meeting to be presided over by Prof Shib Prasanna Lahiri will be addressed, among others, by Prof Abul Quasem Chowdhury, Prof Jahangir Tareq and Dr Siddiqua Mahmuda. The meeting will be followed by a recitation and a cultural function titled 'Aor Bikash Chai'.

CCHRB

Father R W Timm, a social worker and a human rights pioneer in Bangladesh will address on the state of the Advaisa (tribals) of Bangladesh at the Community Development Library at Dhanmondi today (Sunday) at 3:30 pm.

The programme has been organised by the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) to mark the publication of an international report, the Advaisa of Bangladesh of which Father Timm is the main author.

Rotary Club of Dhanmondi

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhanmondi will be held today (Sunday) at 5:30 pm at the Hotel Sonargaon. Rtn Mohammad Moniruzzaman will speak on the 'Language Movement' at the meeting.

Lions Clubs International

A mlad mahfil will be held today (Sunday) at 4:30 pm at the Bangladesh Lions Bhaban at Agargaon to pray for late Lt M R Siddiqui, founder governor of Lions District 315, Bangladesh.

Freedom Party

Freedom Party has organised a discussion meeting today (Sunday) at 4 pm at its office at Dhanmondi on the occasion of 'Black Law Day'.

. . . . and tomorrow

Seminar on Diarrhoeal Diseases

A two-day training seminar on "Prevention and Treatment of Diarrhoeal Diseases" will begin tomorrow (Monday) under the auspices of the Gono Bikash Sangstha.

The trainers are Dr ASG Faruq, Dr Abu Yusuf, Dr Rezia Laila Akbar, Dr Mizanur Rahman, Dr Bilkis A Haque and Dr K M A Aziz.

As many as 61 women will be participating in the two-day training seminar.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office Saturday forecast, rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at a few places over the country till 6 pm today (Sunday).

Night temperatures likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over the country, met office forecast.

The highest temperature, 27.2 degree Celsius, was recorded at Teknaf on Saturday while the lowest 10.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur in the country.

The maximum and the minimum temperature recorded in Dhaka Saturday were 24.2 and 17 degree Celsius respectively Saturday. The percentage of humidity was 85 at 9 am and 69 at 6 pm.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5:50 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6:36 am.

The temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/towns Saturday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	24.2	17.0	85	69
Chittagong	25.4	17.3	83	81
Rajshahi	22.8	13.5	85	77
Khulna	25.0	15.3	94	82
Faridpur	26.7	14.7	80	77
Sylhet	24.2	15.3	85	70
Cox's Bazar	26.2	17.8	71	82
Dinajpur	23.2	10.4	87	61

Life struggle made Nazrul a rebel poet

Dr Jharna Basu, a researcher and teacher of Sarojini Naido College, Calcutta, has said Kazi Nazrul Islam entered into the realm of Bengali literature with all readiness, reports BSS.

The experience of his life struggle made Nazrul a rebel poet and inspired him to create literature anew, she said while speaking at the fifth lecture programme of the decade-long Nazrul birth centenary lecture series.

The lecture programme entitled "Poet Kazi Nazrul: A Contemporary and for all Ages" was held at the Nazrul Institute.

Presided over by Nazrul Researcher Prof Mohammad Abdul Qayum, the function was also addressed by Prof Maniruzzaman, Executive Director of Nazrul Institute.

Australian surgery team visits Dental College Feb 13

By Staff Correspondent

A group of specialists on oral and maxillo facial surgery of Australia will visit Dhaka Dental College on February 13 to perform a number of operations on various diseases including tumour of mouth and oral cavity, indiscrimination in face and oral cancer.

Interested persons have been requested to contact Dr Mattur Rahman Mollah head of the Oral and Maxillo Facial Surgery Department of the college on February 11 and 12.

Qulkhwani

The Qulkhwani of Chowdhury Golam Mokaddes Khaled, son of late Chowdhury Golam Kashem ex-zaminder of Zinda Bazar Chowdhury Bari, Dhaka will be held today (Sunday) at the residence of Daudur Rahman Khan at 87, Haji Para (near petrol pump) after Ara prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

TV Sunday

5-00	Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary
5-10	News in Bangla
5-20	Recitation from the Bible
5-25	Chharai Chharai Lekha Para
6-00	TV series: Rock Spate
6-30	Sports programme: Cricket
7-05	Tagore songs
8-00	News in Bangla
8-30	Probaha
9-00	Drama Series: Oshin
10-00	News in English
10-25	Parliament round-up
10-35	Sanglap: Conversation
11-30	Khabar/The News
11-40	Monday's programme summary
11-45	Closing



Dr Durre Shahwar gets Margaret McNamara Award

Dr Durre Shahwar Nilufar Khan Chowdhury, doctoral candidate and graduate teaching fellow at the University of Oregon, USA has been awarded the Margaret McNamara Memorial Award for the year 1991, by the World Bank, Washington DC in recognition to her dedication for the welfare of maternal and child health issues in the developing countries, says a press release.

Dr Durre also received an award from the American Association of University Women for the year 1991, for her professional interest and research activities.

Chinese acrobats meet Jahan Ara

The visiting Chinese acrobatic team called on State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum at her office yesterday morning, reports UNB.

Recalling the traditional friendship between Bangladesh and China the State Minister underlined the need for regular cultural exchange programme between the two countries.

Islam Uddin Malin Additional Secretary in-charge of the Cultural Affairs Ministry and office bearers of the China-Bangladesh Friendship Society were present on the occasion.