

Dhaka Day by Day

'Blithesome Season of Picnics'

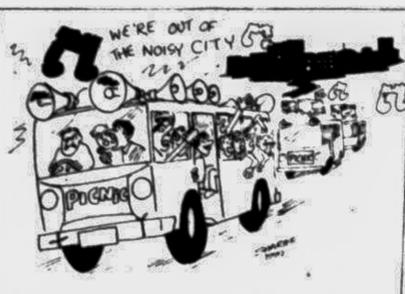
By A.S. M. Nurunnabi

In our ethos of life, enjoyment of our leisure outdoors as a form of entertainment has a low priority. Perhaps there are several factors for such an outlook. But certainly there will be little difference of opinion if it is said that climatic conditions have lot to do as a causative factor.

From that standpoint, a welcome change takes place when winter sets in. Just as migratory birds, in response to a natural urge, fly out from cold regions to warmer climes, a similar instinct though in a somewhat reverse order, also seems to influence our people here normally subject to high temperatures in other seasons.

The festive spirit generally assumes two aspects: private and corporate. The private aspect has a limited scope, but it is the corporate one that creates the most interest, hilarity and boisterousness. The sponsors of a corporate picnic need to master qualities of efficient organisation and management.

Such seasonal burst of care-free merriment and abandon create much needed breaks for many of us from the humdrum existence of normal life, infusing it with new zest and energy, however temporary such a change may be.



choose from. If you prefer a spot near Dhaka, the favourites are mostly the Mirpur Zoological or Botanical gardens. But in most cases, the proclivity is to move further afield to get away from the choking congestion of city life.

The real source of joy, however, lies in the manner how to proceed to your selected place. Most parties are seen to move on hired buses with their Paraphernalia of required utensils and culinary. When their interiors are packed to capacity,

the enthusiasts climb to their roof. Both inside and outside on the roof, all the participants sing in loud chorus with the variety of musical instruments. Some use microphones with taped music to make greater impact on the cardrums of the passers-by.

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Plan to beautify Baitul Mukarram market

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan said Tuesday in Dhaka that a comprehensive measure would be taken to develop and beautify the business centre of Baitul Mukarram, reports BSS.

He was addressing a reception of the elected office-bearers of Baitul Mukarram business community, organised by Baitul Mukarram Watch Traders Association.

Held at the Islamic Foundation, the function was presided over by the president of the association Strajul Islam. It was also addressed, among others, by the Director General of the Islamic Foundation Al Haj Mansurul Haq Khan, General Secretary of the Association Al Haj Mohd Hossain, Baitul Mukarram Traders Group President Al Haj Ali Akbar Khan and the General Secretary of Baitul Mukarram Traders Group Abul Khair Sikder.

The State Minister said the present government was keen to do good to the people with their cooperation. In this context, he urged the traders community to contribute to the welfare of the nation and the society being imbued with the sense of patriotism and love for people.

He said a plan would be taken to expand and develop Baitul Mukarram market and the national mosque at an earliest possible time. He assured the traders that the problems of the market would be considered for quick solution.



PWD workers and employees demonstrating outside the office of Chief Engineer in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of 'mini-PWD' administration. — Star photo

Ansar, VDP marchpast today

The marchpast of the 15th national rally of Ansar and Village Defence Party will be held today at 9 am at the Ansar Academy at Shaifpur, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia is expected to take salute of the marchpast. The national award for Ansar and VDP for 1991 will be distributed on the occasion. An exhibition of handicrafts has also been organised.

About 3,000 Ansar and VDP members will participate in the marchpast.

State Acquisition Act to be modified

The present government would take initiative to modify the State Acquisition Act to make it more welfare oriented for preserving the basic and fundamental rights of people, reports BSS.

This was decided in the second Standing Committee meeting on the Ministry of Land at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with the State Minister for Land Muhammad Kabir Hossain in the chair.

The meeting had three-hour discussions on State Acquisition Act, fisheries and self-reliant ideal villages.

The meeting decided to involve the local MPs in the development of fisheries projects to ensure the interest of real fishermen.

It was also decided to expedite the establishment of self-reliant ideal villages for the permanent settlement of the landless and destitute people.

Whip Mahbub Alam Tara and Nazir Hussain MP were present at the meeting as special guests.

The members of the Standing Committee, Anuruddh Agard MP, M Akbar Ali MP, Md Muzibur Rahman Talukder MP, Begum Rowshan Elahi MP, Md Shahiduzzaman MP, Enamul Haq MP, Nabab Ali Abbas Khan MP, Mohammad Shahjahan MP and Abu Bakar MP, attended the meeting.

Land Secretary M Aminul Islam and high officials of the Land Ministry were present.

PWD employees gherao chief engineer's office

By Staff Correspondent The workers and employees of Public Works Department (PWD) on Tuesday gheraoed the office of the Chief Engineer at 'PWD Building' to press home their five-point demand.

The demands include cancellation of engineering cell in each ministry, establishing a permanent set up for the PWD workers and promotion of the workers of PWD.

During the three-hour gherao programme, leaders of PWD Sangram Parishad addressed the gathering and announced that if their demands were not met by March 4, they would hold a grand conference in front of the Jatiya Press Club on the same day and chalked out programmes for greater movement.

The PWD workers are agitating against the government move to set up engineering cells under different ministries.

Road mishap: 11,069 killed in 7 years

By Staff Correspondent A total of 11,069 persons were killed and another 17,307 were injured in 23,697 road accidents that occurred in the country in last seven years, according to the Communications Minister Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed.

Replying to a question by Rahmat Ali of the Awami League in the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Monday, Oli Ahmed said that casualties in such accidents in the past year under the present regime was lower compared to those in the previous years.

According to him, 1298 persons died and 1465 sustained injuries in 2757 road accidents in 1991 against 2196 deaths and 1720 injuries in the 1990.

What's on today...

Bangla Academy

Bangla Academy programme today (Wednesday) is a discussion on the mistakes in the use of Bangla and the ways to overcome them. The programme will begin in the Academy premises at 4.30 pm.

The key-note paper will be presented by Prof Mahbubul Haque while Dr Manjurul Chowdhury, Dr Hayat Mamud and Shamsuzzaman Khan will be the discussants. It will be presided over by Prof Md Maniruzzaman.

Five Party Alliance

The Five Party Alliance will hold a press conference today (Wednesday) on Golam Azam and on the situation prevailing in the country at 11.30 am at 35/36 Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

Recitation Festival

The third recitation festival of Swanam will begin today (Wednesday) at 6 pm at the Russian Cultural Centre in the city.

It will be inaugurated by Kamal Lohani.

Society for Professionals

The meeting of the newly elected presidium of Society for Professionals will be held today (Wednesday) at the head office of the organisation at 4 pm.

Jana Parishad

Bangladesh Jana Parishad will hand over a memorandum to the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) today (Wednesday) at 11 am demanding the withdrawal of economic embargo on Iraq.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga

The regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today (Wednesday) at 5.30 pm at Sonargaon Hotel. The guest speaker of this week is Prof A F Salahuddin Ahmed of the University of Dhaka.

He will speak on understanding and cooperation in South Asia region.

... and tomorrow

Chuadanga Samity

The emergency meeting of the executive committee of Chuadanga Zila Samity will be held at 5.30 pm tomorrow (Thursday) at its office at 34, Green Road in the city.

Rotaract District Conference

The eighth Rotaract District Conference 'Taranga 92' of R I District 3280 will be held tomorrow (Thursday) at 9 am at the Institution of Engineers.

The Speaker of the Parliament, Sheikh Razaque Ali will attend the conference as chief guest.

Convocation ceremony

The fifth convocation ceremony of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons will be held tomorrow (Thursday) at 10 am at Hotel Sonargaon.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will be the chief guest at the function.

Computer exhibition

Epson Computer and Office Automation Exhibition, '92 will begin tomorrow (Thursday) at the South Ball room of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

It will remain open from 9.30 am to 7 pm.

Weather

Sky to remain partly cloudy

By Staff Correspondent Met office Tuesday forecast weather likely to remain mainly dry across the country with partly cloudy sky over Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna divisions till 6 pm today (Wednesday).

Night temperature likely to fall by one to two degrees Celsius over the country except for coastal regions of Chittagong division where it is likely to remain nearly unchanged, Met office forecast.

The maximum temperature was recorded 28.2 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar Tuesday while the minimum 8 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur.

The maximum and minimum temperature recorded in Dhaka Tuesday were 22.6 and 15.2 degree Celsius respectively. The percentage of humidity recorded in Dhaka was 63 at 9 am and 60 at 6 pm.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 5:52 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 6:34 am.

Temperature and the humidity recorded in some major cities/towns Tuesday were:

Table with columns: Cities/Towns, Temperature (Max, Min), Humidity (9 am, 6 pm). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar, Dinajpur, Tangail.

Belgium to increase imports from Bangladesh

Belgium will increase its imports from Bangladesh and provide more technical assistance to several projects here including the rural telecommunication system.

The country will also increase the number of scholarships for Bangladeshi students to study there, the ambassador designate of Belgium to Bangladesh Xavier R Van Migem said this while presenting his credentials to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The new Belgian envoy said his country would increase import of jute, textile products and frozen fish from Bangladesh and provide more scholarships for Bangladeshi students and technical assistance for several projects here including the rural telecommunication system.

Migem said cooperation and exchanges between the two

countries would continue to enhance on the basis of mutual respect, trust and understanding for the benefit of the two peoples.

He also appreciated the efforts of the present government for consolidating democracy and implementing development programmes to achieve economic progress and uphold human rights in Bangladesh.

The two countries share the same ideals of democracy and human rights," he said hoping that the existing bonds of friendship would be further strengthened in future.

Accepting the credentials, President Abdur Rahman Biswas said both Bangladesh and Belgium shared similar views on many regional and international issues which helped strengthen the basis of friendship between the two countries.

He said the existing areas of

cooperation in all fields between the two countries would be increased.

The President said Bangladesh believed in international cooperation for peace, development and mutual progress.

Speaking about the present government's efforts for strengthening the democratic institutions in the country, the President said, we greatly value your assistance and cooperation in this pursuit.

President Biswas expressed his high esteem for king Baudouin of Belgium and expressed optimism for further cementing the friendly relations between the two countries.

Earlier, the ambassador was given a guard of honour by the President's guard regiment on arrival at Bangabhaban and he took salute and inspected the guard.

4 accords with foreign nations for building roads, bridges

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh has signed four agreements with Japan, China, Italy and the Asian Development Bank for construction of roads and bridges in the country in the current fiscal year, the Communications Minister Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed told the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Monday.

The Bangladesh government has so far received Taka 13 crore under the agreements, he said while replying to a question by Mufti Maulana Abdus Sattar of the Jamaat-e-Islami. Of the donations, he said, Japan and China provided Taka four crore each while Italy gave Taka five crore.

Responding to another question raised by Alhaj Syed Najibul Bashar Matibhandari, the Communications Minister told the House that the government spent Taka 84 crore and 74 lakh for the repair and renovation of roads and bridges during the 1990-91 fiscal year.

Replying to a question of independent member Nurul Islam Mont, Oli Ahmed said that the government has allocated Taka 357 crore for 33 projects under the roads and road transportation department in the 1991-92 fiscal year. The allocation involves Taka 153 crore and 38 lakh in local currency and Taka 203 crore and 75 lakh for 17 projects in foreign currency, he added.

Floods and rains in the past season damaged 719 kilometers of roads and 323 bridges under the road and road transport department, the Minister said in reply to a question by Sardar Shakhawat Hossain Bakul of the ruling BNP.



MacGyver's letter to Zorah, Farah

By Staff Correspondent

Two Bangladeshi girls had their enthralling pleasure when they got a letter and two pictures with autograph from world famous actor Richard Dean Anderson popularly known as MacGyver.

Zorah and Farah — two school going girls of Narayanjan recently wrote a letter to their dear hero inviting him to visit Bangladesh.

Last week they got a letter and two pictures having autograph from MacGyver. He expressed his deep feelings for Bangladesh if when it was possible for him.

BCS (Information) Assoc AGM Feb 14

The annual general meeting of the BCS (Information) Association and installation of the newly elected executive committee will be held on Friday at the auditorium of the Department of Films and Publication, says a PID hand-out.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda will attend the function as Chief guest and special guest respectively.

Mismanagement in Dhaka Cotton Mills

The State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan Tuesday underlined the need for concerted efforts to create a competitive market at home and abroad through increasing the quality of textile products and by reducing the production cost, reports BSS.

He was addressing the workers and employees of Dhaka Cotton Mills while paying a surprise visit to the mills at Postogola in Dhaka.

Referring to the various epoch-making welfare steps undertaken by the government for the workers and employees, the State Minister said now it is their moral obligation to boost production at the mills and factories.

Mannan went round different sections of the mill when he observed some anomalies and mismanagement in the mills and warned concerned authority that government would not accept any wastage or indiscipline in the mills.

The workers of the mills assured the State Minister that within very short time they would increase production by 10 per cent.

Wednesday

Table with columns: Time, Programmes. Rows include Opening announcement, News in Bangla, Tarunnya, Sports programme, News in Bangla, Writer Tale Tale Dance Programme, Film: MacGyver, News in English, Parliament roundup, Shapadinga, Khabar/The news, Thursday's Programme, Closing.