

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

'Caw-caws' the Eternal Crow

by Parveen Anam

No city, worth its name, major or otherwise, can boast of a speciality, that we 'Dhakaites' can boast of without batting an eyelid. New York has its statue of Liberty, London the Houses of Parliament, Delhi the Red Fort and so on and so forth; the staunch ones will immediately go on the defensive, and defend good old Dhaka, as the City of Mosques, the City of Rickshaws, as every driver will swear by, but the stauncher ones will swear that it is the eternal crow which makes Dhaka special. For which other major city, in the civilized West, or the exotic East, can even dare to think of boasting of so many... loud-mouthed, voracious, nimble-footed creatures, the terror of the housewives, and the nightmare of the city fathers? It is none other than the audacious crow, cawing away to its hearts content outside your window, beckoning you to hurry up an empty your garbage, so he can have a hey-time.

pickles in the sun, on the roof; when very soon, she finds her jar of pickles and hours of labour all in a mess, on the floor of the roof with the crows sitting in a merry circle, enjoying the pickles and the anguish of the housewife. Try to resist them, and woe befall you. And if the laundry, put out to dry on the line is not firmly anchored in place, the odd sock missing, the



The villages in rural Bengal, claim to have you wake to the melodious chirping of the birds, but we in Dhaka, are denied this privilege and waken more often than not to the cawing of that eternal nuisance, the crow. Many a times, when one is inclined, on a cool morning or late evening, to enjoy a cup of tea and a bite to eat on the balcony or the small garden, the crows materialise miraculously, (suffer from insomnia, these crows, I am sure) keeping a safe distance, but cawing till your eardrums protest and your sensibilities are offended. And in utter disgust, you give up the idea of either the tea or the snack, preferably both and walk indoors in a huff. Go for a

handkerchief, a vest, etc. etc. is the oldest story doing the rounds. He is an incorrigible kleptomaniac, that little devil, the crow. But then, there are many, who will have you know, it is the fault of the city-dwellers, that these creatures abound in our beloved city; for if we keep our city clean and tidy, the crows will fly away to greener pastures, (the wise ones will assert) and there are others who will snake their wiser heads, and mutter—"and hope springs eternal in the human breast." For would not many a reader agree, that after all, Dhaka without the crows would be almost like London without the rains—monotonous and predictable.

Dhaka trying to resolve problems with Yangon

The parliamentary committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a meeting at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday with foreign Minister A S M Mustafaur Rahman in the chair, reports BSS.

The minister briefed the committee on the Bangladesh-Myanmar ties and the efforts being made to resolve the problems between the two countries through discussions.

Committee members Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Hafizuddin Ahmed, M Redwan Ahmed, M Shahjahan Omar, Rashid Khan Menon, and M A Jinnah attended the meeting.

Reinstatement of Nini demanded

Bangladesh Women-Journalists' Forum has expressed deep concern at the sacking of Nasimunnahar Nini, a Shift-in-Charge of the Sangbad, reports BSS.

The forum, in a meeting in Dhaka on Sunday, observed that the Sangbad administration had sacked Nini as a punishment for leading lawful movement of the working journalists of the daily.

The meeting also demanded of the Sangbad administration to immediately withdraw the sacking notice on Nini and reinstate her in the previous position.

'Peace' vital to attract foreign investment

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday stressed on creating congenial atmosphere for more local and foreign investment with a view to generating increased employment opportunities, reports BSS.

In this connection the minister referred to the announcement of a new industrial policy by the government. He said formulating a policy was not enough to attract investment and pointed out that peace and discipline in the industrial sector was the pre-condition for investment.

The minister also laid emphasis on increasing the labour productivity and at the same time making the wages compatible with productivity.

Bhuiyan said that despite various constraints the present government is quite conscious about protecting the interests of the labour and working community.

"We believe that the labourers and workers are the main engine for attaining country's development", the minister said while inaugurating a one-day tripartite national workshop on linkages between international labour standards (ILS) and technical cooperation activities in Dhaka.

Bhuiyan said the government had already taken steps to raise the wages of the labourers keeping in mind the

prevailing market prices. The hopes and aspirations of all the working and professional groups would be reflected in the policies and programmes of the present democratic government which had been installed after waging struggle against the nine-year autocratic rule, he said.

Jointly organised by the Ministry of Labour and Manpower and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the workshop is being participated by officials, representatives of employers, trade union and labour leaders.

Chaired by Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Dr A K M Mashtur Rahman, the inaugural session was addressed by Werner K Blenk, director of the ILO office in Dhaka, Leonard of the International Labour Standards Department of the ILO headquarters in Geneva and Shamsul Kabir Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower.

The workshop is being conducted by experts from the ILO's regional office in Bangkok.

Referring to the 1.4 crore unemployed people in the

country Bhuiyan said the entire development effort would turn meaningless if this huge chunk of population was not provided with employment.

The minister said new employment opportunities would have to be generated to engage these unemployed people in the productive activities through raising their level of efficiency.

He said unskilled and unemployed people and youths were being provided with training on different trades

Indo-Bangla special train for Urs

Bangladesh and Indian Railways will run a special train jointly on February 15 from Rajbari to Midnapore in India to facilitate the travel of pilgrims from Bangladesh to the Urs festival at Midnapore, reports BSS.

The train will leave Rajbari at 10 pm on February 15 and enter India via Darsana/Gede border the next morning.

It will carry about 1000 pilgrims under the banner of Antaran-e-Quaderia.

The train will return to Bangladesh on February 19.

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.

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TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY

The Operational Unit of the SIFAD Task Force as instituted by the Government invites proposals from national and international consulting firms either directly or through their local associates to undertake the following assignment for a twelve months period in Bangladesh.

The consultancy is to be carried out under a technical cooperation project of UNDP with the Government of Bangladesh with a view to preparing a series of action plans based on the recommendations of the Task Force set up for studying ways of strengthening the Institutions for Food Assisted Development (SIFAD).

The inputs involve a full-time resident international advisor for 12 months complemented by senior short terms international advisors for up to eight months work; a full time national consultant for 12 months and inputs from specialized short term national consultants for up to 26 work months. Equipment, transport and support staff is also provided for in the project. Such inputs are expected to be delivered by the consulting firm in an integrated package form.

Proven familiarity with the subject and the institutional context is essential. Detailed Terms of Reference can be obtained from the Office of the Director (Operations) of WFP, Road 11A, House 69, Dhanmondi or the Office of the Convenor of the SIFAD Operational Unit, Joint Secretary, ERD, Block 7, Room 12 in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

The closing date for the submission of proposals will be the 29th February 1992.

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What's on today . . .

BCPS Convocation

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

President Abdul Rahman Biswas will grace the occasion as the chief guest and Minister for Health and Family Planning Choudhury Kamal Huse Yusuf will attend as special guest.

Muktijoddha Sangsad

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad will organise a discussion and cultural show today (Thursday) to mark the twentieth founding anniversary of the council.

The programme will begin at 4 pm at the temporary office of the Muktijoddha Sangsad at Aziz Super Market in the city.

DU Poetry Festival

The Dhaka University Winter Poetry Festival Organising Committee will hold a Poetry Festival at the foot-steps of the 'Aparajeya Bangla' at the Arts Faculty at 10 am today (Thursday). Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University Dr Wakil Ahmed will be the chief guest.

It will be presided over by Dr Humayun Azad while Dr Anisuzzaman will attend the function as special guest. Dr Syed Manjural Islam will highlight on the current trends in Bengali poetry.

A number of guest poets and poets from DU will participate in the festival.

Islamic Lawyers' Assoc

Bangladesh Islamic Lawyers' Association will organise a seminar on 'Khatemey Nabuyat and claim on Kadian' beginning at 3 pm today (Thursday) at the Dhaka Ainjibi Samity auditorium.

Bandhujan Parishad

The Dhaka unit of the Jatiya Bandhujan Parishad—National Friends Council—will hold its annual convention today (Thursday) at 4 pm at the National Press Club.

State Minister for Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Development Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, who is also the founding president of the Council, will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Secretary, Ministry of Health M Mokammel Huq and journalist Gias Kamal Choudhury will attend the function as special guests.

The meeting will be presided over by City Unit president Habibur Rahman.

Chuadanga Samity

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

Rotaract District Conference

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

The Speaker of the Parliament, Shaikh-Razzaque Ali will attend the conference as chief guest.

Computer Exhibition

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

It will remain open from 9.30 am to 7 pm.

. . . and tomorrow

Publication ceremony

Radical Asia Publications will organise the publication ceremony of two books written by Abdul Matin titled 'Ekki Rajnoitik Alekhya' and 'Bangabandhu, Bangalee Jatiyatabad, Muktabuddhir Charcha' at the National Museum auditorium tomorrow (Friday) at 4 pm.

Poet Sufla Kamal will attend the occasion as the chief guest while Dr Anisuzzaman will be the special guest.

Awami league chief Sheikh Hasina will also attend the function.

Rally on drug abuse

Lions Multiple District-315 will hold a rally on 'drug abuse' tomorrow (Friday) at 8.30 am from Shishu Park to the Jatiya Press Club.

The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof M Maniruzzaman Miah will lead the rally as the chief guest.

Blood donation programme

Karmichael College former students' union will organise a blood donation programme tomorrow (Friday) at 9 am at the Red Crescent Society office at Mohammadpur in the city.

EC forms 100 tribunals for UP elections

The Election Commission has formed 100 tribunals comprising judiciary officials to dispose of cases regarding the just concluded Union Parishad elections, reports BSS.

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Chittagong Hill Tract students held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday protesting the atrocities by Shantibahini. — Star photo

Call to help formulate strategy for disabled

Speakers at a workshop Wednesday called for taking up integrated planning to help formulate a strategy for welfare of the disabled, reports UNB.

"We should make sure that the strategy formulated must be implemented properly" as on many occasions we have formulated good strategies but very few implemented", they said.

To keep the disabled in their own community integration and re-integration needed most, the participant said in the three-day workshop on 'Action Plan for Community Based Rehabilitation on Disability in Bangladesh' held at a local hotel.

Jointly organised by Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS), NFOWD and International Centre for Advancement of Community Based Rehabilitation (ICACBR).

Dwelling on the rehabilitation of the disabled, Hasina was shocked at the death of Ahmed.

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina Wednesday expressed profound grief at the death of Naraindi district Awami League Vice-President Ahmed Ali, reports UNB.

Thursday

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al Quran
- Programme summary
- 5.15 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5.25 Bolte Paro
- 6.00 Cartoon: The New Three Stooges
- Jiboner Alo
- 6.30 Debate
- 7.05 News in Bangla
- 8.00 Drama of the Week
- 8.30 News in English
- 10.25 Parliament round-up
- 10.35 Drama series: Twin Peaks
- 11.30 Khabor/ The News
- 11.40 Friday's Programme Summary
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

Night temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Met office Wednesday forecast, weather likely to remain dry over the country till 6 pm today (Thursday).

Night temperature likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over the country. Met office forecast.

The maximum temperature was recorded 26.6 degree Celsius at Teknaf in the country Wednesday while the minimum 9 degree Celsius was reported from Ishwardi.

The maximum and the minimum temperature recorded in Dhaka Wednesday were 22.8 and 13 degree Celsius respectively.

The percentage of humidity recorded in Dhaka was 66 at 9 am and 54 at 6 pm.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 5.52 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6.34 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity
	Max	Min	
Dhaka	28.8	13	66
Chittagong	23.8	15	73
Rajshahi	23	9.7	78
Khulna	23.5	11.2	79
Sylhet	23.1	10.5	77
Ishwardi	23.1	9	85
Barisal	23.8	11.4	86
Madaripur	23.7	10.7	85