

Dhaka Day by Day

A Temple with an Exception

by Kazi Ahsan Sakhawat

Whenever I used to pass through the Nilkhet road leaving behind the Arts building of Dhaka University I became attracted with curiosity at the site of a magnificent white building just adjacent to the Institute of Modern Language. To satisfy my curiosity I went there on a Friday afternoon. As I entered and crossed the green lush garden of roses, the sound of melodious songs came into my ear; I was standing inside the Gurudwara Nanak Shahi, a temple of the Sikhs. The holy day for the Sikhs is Friday. On this day not only the Sikhs but also the Hindus and Muslims gather here in this Gurudwara. This place is open to all. Anyone can come, sit inside and listen to the recital from the Granthasaheb (Holy Book of the Sikhs).

Songs as well as performed by the local singers. I was amazed to see that the inside room (the main worship room) was filled with people from all walks of life. Everybody was listening with keen interest to the 'Granthi' (preacher) as he was reading out the lines from the holy book. Bhai Kartar Singh the Gurudwara has been living here since 1972. He looks after and maintains the well-being of the place.

Among the thirty to forty people on the weekly assemblage there are only 4/5 turbaned Sikhs with their families and most of them are from the Indian High Commission. However, the majority of the crowd are Muslims even the couples who sing during the worship. There is a guest room and a 'Langar' beside the prayer room. Cooked food is distributed among the people in the Langar every Friday. Rice, Chapatti, Lentil, and Vegetables are served here. Anybody no matter what religion he/she believes in is not unwanted here.

The Sikh religion is the member of a monotheistic Hindu sect founded in the 16th century in the Punjab by Nanak. Originally a Hindu

Nanak later made Muslim pilgrimages to Mecca-Madina. His creed was summed up in the simple formula of the unity of God and the brotherhood of man. From Hinduism he took devotional mysticism and the doctrine of the transmigration of souls, but he rejected its scriptures, ceremonies, asceticism, pilgrimages and the caste system. From Islam he took its uncompromising monotheistic view and its objections to infanticide, child-marriage, suttee, and the enclosure of women.

The inscription on the wall of the Gurudwara depicts:

This Gurudwara commemorates the stay during 1504 AD at this place of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1469-1539) founder of the Sikh religion. Here he held religious discourses and preached the gospel of one God and universal brotherhood.

The Gurudwara was built originally by Bhai Natha. A missionary who came to Dhaka during the time of the 6th Guru. The building was completed in 1830. After a period of neglect, some essential repairs were made in 1971-72, after the liberation of Bangladesh.

In 1988-89, the building was renovated and the outside verandah was constructed for its protection and preservation with contributions received from Guru Nanak's followers in Bangladesh and other countries. This work was carried out under the able guidance and supervision of Sardar Harbans Singh IAS (Retd) head of the International Jute Organisation, Dhaka.

Now, this Gurudwara is the contact office of Bangladesh Gurudwara Management Board in Bangladesh and Mr Surjit Singh Siddhu is the president of the Board. The visitors, however, sometimes face difficulties as sudden gunbattle occurs in the DU campus hampering their visit to this holy place.



Gurudwara Nanak Shahi—a place where everyone is welcome.

Anniversary of Tajul's death today

By Staff Correspondent

'Shaheed Tajul Dibosh' will be observed today (Sunday) to mark the eighth anniversary of death of noted trade unionist Tajul Islam.

Tajul was killed while leading an anti-autocracy procession at Adanajee Nagar during the regime of deposed President Ershad in 1984.

In observance of the day, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will place wreaths at the grave of Tajul at Matlab upazila of Chandpur district.

In a statement, the CPB President Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and its General Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid Saturday said that real respect to Shaheed Tajul could be paid only by bringing economic emancipation of the working masses.

Bangladesh Trade Union Centre has organised a discussion meeting on its late leader at its city office today (Sunday) at 4 pm.

Samajtantrik Sramik Front, the labourers' wing of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) in a statement on this occasion demanded trial of the killers of Tajul. It also called on the government to fulfill the five-point demand of the workers in order to translate the dream of Tajul into reality.

Welfare fortnight for deaf begins today

A welfare fortnight for the deaf begins throughout the country from today (Sunday), reports BSS.

The fortnight has been organised by Bangladesh National Federation of the Deaf. An exhibition of handicrafts, made by the deaf in their schools, will be opened today at the federation's premises.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas is expected to inaugurate the exhibition while Information Minister, Barrister Nazmul Huda, will attend as special guest.

Srinivasan makes farewell call on Khaleda

The outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh K Srinivasan made a farewell call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence in Dhaka Saturday evening, reports BSS.

The envoy spent some time with Begum Zia and discussed matters of mutual interest. The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and the Indian Deputy High Commissioner were also present.

DU English Dept freshers reception held

By Staff Correspondent

A function to accord reception to the freshers and farewell to the outgoing students of the Department of English, Dhaka University, was held Saturday at the ICMA Auditorium at Nilkhet in the city.

Organised by the English Department, the function was participated by the students of the department.

Rakib spoke for the freshers while Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman Saklaen spoke on behalf of the outgoing students.

The function was rounded off a cultural show in which a play entitled 'Protham Partha' by Buddhadev Bose was staged.

Dr Rezaur Rahman, Chairman of the Department presided over the function while Vice Chancellor Prof Muniruzzaman Mian attended the chief guest.

Call to exchange scholars, cultural troupe among SAARC countries

Deputy leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury Saturday called for increased cooperation among the countries of the South Asian region for attaining peace and progress, reports BSS.

Addressing as the special guest the third session of international seminar on 'new imperatives for regional cooperation in South Asia', at a city hotel, Prof Chowdhury said, 'Our goal is peace and progress and the method is cooperation'.

The Deputy leader of the House underscored the need for exchanging scholars and cultural troupe among the regional countries. He also advocated for setting up institutes for SAARC countries' languages in different areas of the region.

He said with the sweeping of democracy in this region, it would be easy for all concerned to foster cooperation.

Prof Chowdhury, however, pointed out that success of the whole thing depends on three factors — internal democracy

of a country, tolerance of big country for neighbourhood and above all socio-economic success which is the final word for democratic success.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqi

spoke on 'peace and cooperation through education, culture and information media' at the session which was presided over by Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharafuddin.

Prof Salahuddin Ahmed, Dr Mazharul Islam, Prof M Anisuzzaman, Narasingh, Prof RN Singh, and Ghulam Mohiuddin took part in the discussions.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqi a former Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, said attention should be fixed on democratization internally within individual states, and formation of groups or unions, by whatever names it may be called, for smooth attainment of common goals—democratic freedom, freedom from want and human dignity.

Prof Siddiqi said cooperation in education, culture and information is bound to grow with the acceleration of the process of democratization, of which there are unmistakable signs in recent years. 'The details of the programme need not worry us now,' he added.

Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharafuddin, a retired Secretary and Educationist, called upon the countries of this region to strengthen peace and cooperation with a

view to ensuring a safer abode for the posterity.

He stressed the need for initiating some concrete actions in the fields of education, culture and science and technology for eliminating mistrust among the countries of this region.

Dr Sharafuddin also said, 'We need to focus on the development of human resources to meet the challenges of the coming 21st century.'

Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain presented the key-note paper on 'Problems of communalism, violence, terrorism and drugs, protection of human rights and prevention of arms race.'

Dr N P Singh, a former Nepalese Minister and President of Nepal World Peace Committee, presided over the session in which father R W Timm, President, Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) was the special guest.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Begum Sajida Chowdhury MP, who is also General Secretary of Awami League, Tofael Ahmed MP, Abdur Rab Chowdhury MP, Sadhan Mukherjee, Editor-in-Chief, Peace Courier, Dr Syeda Firoza Begum, Ray Stewart and Wahid Raza

addressed it.

Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain pleaded for promotion of peace by resisting communalism in the South Asian region through fostering SAARC spirit not only at government level but also at non-government level. He suggested establishment of regional associations of professionals within SAARC countries. Another important suggestion was issuance of 15-day entry permit at the port of entry for passengers travelling by air in South Asian region.

Father Timm stressed the need for programmes for eradication of problems of poverty, illiteracy and violation of human rights in the countries of the region. The solution to such problems lies in regional cooperation, he said.

Tofael Ahmed said there was no communalism in Bangladesh. Referring to stray attempts to create communal problems during Ershad's time in 1990, he said unity of the people had foiled such attempt. He said if democracy could function, there was possibility of increased cooperation among the countries of the region.

Tofael Ahmed said there was no communalism in Bangladesh. Referring to stray attempts to create communal problems during Ershad's time in 1990, he said unity of the people had foiled such attempt. He said if democracy could function, there was possibility of increased cooperation among the countries of the region.

Saudi dates handed over

Director of International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO) Sheikh Abdul Baki Al-Shuraiki handed over 200 metric tons of Saudi dates to the State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof MA Mannan at the auditorium of Islamic Foundation in Dhaka Saturday, reports UNB.

Those who were present on the occasion include Brig General Dr Ahmed M Abu Azmah, Joint Director, IIRO, National Prof Dr Nurul Islam, Director General, Islamic Foundation Al-Hajj Monsurud Haq Khan and the Imams from different districts.

Happy Birthday TO MY BELOVED NEELUFAR

Please pray for her



A CNN delegation led by its Managing Director Mark Rudolph called on Information Minister Nazmul Huda at latter's office Saturday. Information Secretary Nooruddin Al Masud was present on the occasion.

CNN proposes network extension to Bangladesh

A delegation of Cable News Network (CNN) Saturday exchanged views with Information Minister Nazmul Huda on the possibility of extension of relay activities of the network to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

It also explained to the minister CNN network extension to the neighbouring countries.

The views were exchanged when the CNN delegation consisting its Managing Director Mark Rudolph, Director of Information Lisa Prestwich and local representative Anu Jaigirdar called on the minister at his office.

Information Secretary Nuruddin Al Masud, Director General of Bangladesh Television M. Faizur Razzak and Chief Engineer of BTB were present on the occasion.

During the discussions, the minister expressed the view that projection of various national activities including developmental programmes of Bangladesh in the outside world would be speedier and easier if the proposed CNN programme was extended to Bangladesh. As a result, he said, Bangladesh people would be benefited.

Nazmul Huda assured the delegation that the government would actively consider the CNN proposal.

Exhibition of Bangladeshi products in Saudi Arabia

An exhibition of Bangladeshi products began in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on February 24, according to a message received in Dhaka Saturday, reports BSS.

The Government of Holy Makkah Muajema, Dr. Rabeya S. Dahalan, inaugurated the eight-day exhibition.

Eighteen export house of the country are taking part in the exhibition, organised by the Export Promotion Bureau in cooperation with Bangladesh Embassy in Saudi Arabia.

Rajshahi College to be upgraded

RAJSHAHI, Feb 29: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz said that necessary arrangements would be made soon to upgrade Rajshahi College as university college to retain its glory, reports BSS.

He was addressing a reception arranged for the students of Rajshahi College who secured extraordinary results in HSC Examination of 1991.

Organised by Rajshahi College Old Students Union, the function was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain, City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University Atul Hal Shibly and Vice Principal of Rajshahi College Rezaul Haq.

The minister said, radical changes in our education system was needed to make it effective. He regretted that the present education system meant only acquiring certificates which could not ensure overall development of the country. The education we require was to equip the students with necessary knowledge for utilizing the national resources to make the country prosperous, he mentioned.

Mirza Hafiz said the present democratic government had inherited a series of problems in every sector. The ways to solve the problems had already been chalked out and the government was trying hard to overcome the situation, he added.

The minister underscored

the need for coordinated and sincere efforts of all irrespective of party affiliations in this regard.

Hafiz, who was a student of the college 55 years ago, recalled memories of his time. He urged the students to become worthy citizens of the country acquiring knowledge based on moral values.

State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain announced that a study tour would be arranged for the students of Rajshahi College who secured brilliant results in the HSC Examination of 1991.

Later the Law Minister distributed crests and certificates among the deserving students. The function was followed by an attractive cultural function.

PSC Annual Report submitted to President

The annual report of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC) for the year 1991 was presented to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban Saturday, reports BSS.

Chairman of the PSC Prof Dr Iyazuddin Ahmed handed over the report to the President at a simple function.

Accepting the report, President Biswas appreciated the performance of the commission saying that the PSC

members had maintained complete impartiality in the recruitment process.

He also advised them to carry on their responsibilities in a way so that the talents could be recruited in streamlining the administration suiting to the need of the country.

The commission members Prof Abdul Mannan, Giasuddin Ahmad, M A Mannan Bhuiyan and the PSC Secretary A H M Nuruddin were present on the occasion.

Sircar stresses promotion of juvenile literature

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar Saturday laid emphasis on exchange of ideas among the children of different countries for flourishing of their latent talents, reports BSS.

He said the present government aims at making the children worthy citizens through imparting them proper education.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the publication ceremony of a book titled 'Guess what I am doing' held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium in the city.

Presided over by Education Secretary Shaiful Alam, the function was addressed by Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam, Chairman of Shishu Academy Dr Kazi Anwarul Munsur and Secretary of Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO Abdus Selim.

The minister said the present government has already introduced compulsory primary education programme at 68 thanas to ensure literacy for the children. The government will set up mass education centres in every villages of the country to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2000. He also stressed on promotion of juvenile literature for their men-

Sramik Jote leader dead

By Staff Correspondent

Mashur Rahman Dulal, member of the central secretariat of the Jatiya Sramik Jote died on Friday. He was 35.

His namaj-e-janaza was held Saturday after Jote prayers at the Tallabagh Mosque at Jhigatala Tannery Crossing in the city.

JSD leaders Kazi Aref Ahmed, Sharif Nurul Ambia, Dr Mushtaq Hossain, Azizur Rahman, Sramik Jote leaders A Kader, Badal Khan and the leaders of the Chhatra League attended the janaza.

Later, the body of the deceased was sent to his village home at Ishurdi.

President of the Jatiya Sramik Jote Abdul Kader and General Secretary Badal Khan in a statement Saturday condoled the death of Mashur Rahman Dulal.

Death condoled

Information Minister Nazmul Huda expressed his profound shock at the sudden and premature death of Pradip Kumar Majumder Assistant Director of the Department of Films and Publications in Dhaka Saturday, reports BSS.

TV Sunday Special Session

- 5.15 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 5.30 World Cup Cricket Australia vs India
- Evening Session**
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Makey Nye
- 6.00 Rock Sport
- 6.30 Sports programme : Cricket
- 7.05 Tagore songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Prabaha : Documentary
- 9.00 Drama series : Oshin
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Rag Rong : Classical music
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Monday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today (Sunday), says Met office.

Night temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius at many places over the country and day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country, Met office forecast.

The maximum temperature in the country, 30.5 degree Celsius, was recorded at Jessore while the country's minimum 12.2 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi Saturday.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6:02 pm, and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6:20 am.

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	28	15	80	65
Chittagong	27	19.8	74	80
Rajshahi	28.5	12.2	96	72
Khulna	30.2	18.3	89	63
Sylhet	25	12.8	79	74
Cox's Bazar	27.4	17.9	72	83
Jessore	30.5	16.5	-	-
Barisal	29.5	19.2	95	81

↓ SUZUKI RANGS

সুজুকি জিএস১২৫

আকারেও যেন বড় ইঞ্জিনও তেমন শক্তিশালী

সুজুকি জিএস১২৫

সুজুকি এ প্রস ১০০

অপূর্ব টাইমের গঠন
শক্ত মজবুত অর্ধ চতুর্ভুজ তীরী না
১২৫ সি সি উচ্চ ক্ষমতা সম্পন্ন ইঞ্জিন
হেভী ডিউটি সাসপেনশন - যে কোন পথে চলার উপযোগী
চড়তে ভারী আরাম

সুজুকি এ প্রস ১০০ - এখনো অপ্রতিদ্বন্দী

রিয়ান মটরস লিমিটেড
রায়গঙ্গ গ্রুপ অব কোম্পানী-এর একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান
১৮৩/৮৮, মেদনীত গিরি এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮ ফোনঃ ৬০৪০৯৯