

Dhaka Day by Day

Of Rats and Rodents

by Parveen Anam

The infamous Mayor in the Pied Piper of Hamelin paid very dearly indeed for his attempts to rid the city dwellers of the menace of rats, who 'ate the cats, snatched the babies from the cradles and set around the rat traps, laughing themselves silly'. The present day Mayors of course would never dream of doing anything so silly, like getting hold of the 'magic man' to rid the city of Dhaka of the rats, cockroaches, mosquitoes, etc. These things do not, repeat, do not happen in real life. Although there are times, when you could swear, the poor man, or men, would probably happily settle not only for the Pied Piper, but for anybody, to help him rid the city of the rats, cockroaches, mice etc overwhelming overrunning the city limits.

Ask any dweller, and he will shake his head morosely and go into a long list of damages wrought by these nocturnal creatures. In fact, at times, they are not so nocturnal after all, and will be seen to scamper during the day-time too. Much to the chagrin of the housewife. There is the odd housewife, who would rather face the wrath of the gun toting 'miscreant' than the wrath of these horrid, four legged filthy creatures, which are enough to send her scampering onto the nearest chair or table, with suitable sound effects, of course. But then, can you blame the 'city fathers' for their nonchalance towards these creatures, when it is all they can do to keep the weary citizens away from the clutches

of the muggers, the hijackers, etc. locked in perpetual mafia style warfare? Not that the success story is particularly high, on that count either, though. At least the 'press notes' are there on time, even if the policeman is not. But again, these policemen too, seem ineffective against the invasion of these creatures. The pharmaceutical companies are of course in a mad, mad race to outdo the pest, but after the first couple of weeks, these awful creatures manage to develop the most perfect immunity against the insecticides, pesticides, or whatever name the companies like to call their product by.

And seem to come back with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. One shudders to think of the horror stories these creatures spread. The television is of course dutifully informing us at regular intervals, how to deal with diarrhoea, and the solution to it (remember that wonder drug called Orsaline?), it is astonishing how the 'pundits' never manage to mention what to do about the disease and prevention of the disease, being spread by these pests. If they are not careful, they might soon find the Dhakaite, taking his own measure, in trying to tackle these pests, and the Pied Piper might be persuaded to walk away with the 'pundits' instead of the rodents. That would solve one problem at least, or is one way of looking at the problem! The optimistic way.



Serge Degallaix, the French Ambassador visiting the solo art exhibition of Ratan Majumder at the Panda Garden Restaurant in the city Saturday. —Star photo

'Ecological problems emerge out of modern agricultural methods'

Resistance Network against Abuse of Contraceptives on Women Bodies, an NGO termed the World Bank statement that over population was the main reason of ecological problem in Bangladesh as false and motivated.

Delivering speeches over the WB statement at a press conference at the press club Saturday, the Network members said ecological problems in Bangladesh had evolved from the use of modern agricultural methods.

Accusing the developed countries of the most global ecological disturbances, the Network said "the rich nations through the World Bank are trying to pressurise poor countries to accept blames for causing ecological problems."

Farida Akhter, Mehrunesa Islam, Jahanara Juman and others on behalf of the network talked to the newsmen.

TV Sunday

- 5.00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme Summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Bible
- 5.30 Maake Nite (Programme for mothers)
- 6.00 Rock sports
- 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
- 10.30 Chhayachanda (Film Songs)
- 11.30 Khabar / The News
- 11.40 Monday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

By Staff Correspondent

Quoting an UNFPA statement that the one billion people of industrialised nations were consuming 80 per cent resources of the world, the network said control of consumption should get the top priority in ecological development instead of the WB's prescription for the poor nations that population control should get the first priority.

"Through the WB prescription of population control," the network said, "it is actually helping the rich nations to market their rejected family planning methods in the poor countries."

The Network felt that family planning methods imposed by foreign donors were often hazardous both physically and socially.

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light to moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty and squally wind is likely to occur at many places over the Chittagong division, at a few places over Khulna division and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing from 6 am to-day (Sunday).

The Met office forecast day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Rainfall may increase after two days, the Met office said. On Saturday, rain and thundershowers occurred at many places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi division. Weather remained dry elsewhere over the country.

The highest rainfall of 38mm was recorded at Chandpur while in Barisal 34mm, Faridpur 33mm, Bhola 32mm, Patuakhali 31mm, Majdee Court 29mm and in Dhaka 3mm of rainfall were recorded.

The highest temperature of 35.2 degree Celsius was reported from Chuadanga Saturday. The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.39 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5:12 am.

The temperature and humidity in some cities/towns recorded Saturday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.5	24.5	75	69
Chittagong	31.4	23.9	70	73
Khulna	33.1	20.5	62	59
Rajshahi	32.8	22.1	85	63
Sylhet	30.6	21.2	73	77
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.0	65	74
Dinajpur	32.0	18.8	67	59
Barisal	32.0	22.4	77	45
Chuadanga	35.2	21.5	71	41

Steps for poverty alleviation in next budget suggested

CPB General Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid has urged the government to take effective measures in the next budget for alleviation of poverty, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting Friday in the Town Hall premises in Barisal said unemployment, spiralling prices, terrorism, retrenchment of workers etc, were causing great concern for the people.

Nahid said increase in the railway fare and charges for gas before the announcement of the next budget have already created a lot of hardship for

the people.

He also demanded execution of the verdict of the "people's court" on Golam Azam and called for unity of the pro-liberation forces and a united movement for the realisation of the people's demands.

Presided over by AK Azad, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Anwar Zahid and Najmul Ahsan.

The CPB General Secretary in another statement condemned the recent attack by the anti-liberation forces on the pro-liberation forces at Sirajganj.

Chile assures allout help to Bangladesh

President Particio Aylwin of Chile said given the similarity of recent political change and restoration of democracy in Bangladesh and Chile, there was a much greater scope of strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries, according to a message received in Dhaka Saturday, reports BSS.

President Aylwin was receiving the credentials of Ambassador Humayun Kabir, permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations who was also concurrently accredited to Chile on May 20 last.

President Aylwin warmly reciprocated the fraternal greetings of President Abdur Rahman Biswas conveyed to him by Ambassador Kabir, who also conveyed Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's greetings to the Chilean President.

Reciprocating the greetings of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia President Aylwin requested the Ambassador to convey his warm felicitations

to her and underscored the need for exchanging ideas and experiences with her in institutionalising democracy which was also the main task of his government.

He requested the Ambassador to explore all possible avenues of bilateral cooperation and assured that all possible assistance would be extended by his government.

Earlier, after presenting the credentials Ambassador Kabir briefed the President on various policy measures undertaken by Bangladesh government to consolidate democracy as well as accelerate pace of socio-economic development particularly in the rural areas.

The President also exchanged views with the Ambassador on the coming Rio Summit on environment as well as the role of Non-Aligned Movement in the wake of the end of cold war.

Foreign Minister of Chile Enrique Silva was present on the occasion.

What's on today . . .

Musical concert

A musical concert will be held today (Sunday) at 4-30 pm at the Ball Room of Sheraton Hotel. Participating bands are Miles, K-OZ and Sweet Revenge.

Rotary Club of Dhanmondi

The 297th regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhanmondi will be held today (Sunday) at 5:30 pm at Sonargaon Hotel. Today's programme is discussion on club affairs.

Certificates awarding ceremony

The vocational training centre for destitute women will distribute certificates among its successful trainees at a function to be held at the centre premises at Badda in the city today (Sunday) at 5 pm.

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Sarwari Rahman will attend the function as chief guest and hand over the certificates to the trainees.

The training is jointly organised by the Rotary Club of Dhaka Mid-town and Matri Kalyan Samity.

Orgenta film show

A German film 'The Run Away' will be screened at the auditorium of German Cultural Institute in the city today (Sunday) at 6 pm.

The film show, part of a fortnight-long film festival was organised by Orgenta International Film Society in observance of its 16th founding anniversary and in memory of Oscar-winner film maker Satyajit Ray.

Distribution of 'Swadhinota Padak '92'

Save the Distressed People will distribute 'Swadhinota Padak '92' at a ceremonial function at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium today (Sunday) at 4.30 in the afternoon.

JAGPA public rally

Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (JAGPA) will hold a public rally at Kaptan Bazar in the city today (Sunday) afternoon.

Zia Youth Forum

Tongi unit of Zia Youth Forum will formally open its Mass Literacy Programme-2 today (Sunday).

General Secretary of the organisation's central body Anisur Rahman will attend the opening function as chief guest.

Chhatra Sena conference

The central conference of Islami Chhatra Sena will be held at a field south of Kamalapur Railway Station today (Sunday) at 9 am.

Ganatantri Party Meeting

An extended meeting of Ganatantri Party city unit will be held at the party central office today (Sunday) at 6 pm. Party leaders and workers have been requested to attend the meeting.

. . . and tomorrow

DU programmes on Nazrul's birth day

The Dhaka University has taken up programmes to observe the 93rd birth anniversary of rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam tomorrow (Monday).

According to a DU press release, teachers, students and staff of the university will gather at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla monument at 6.30 am to lay wreaths at the Majar of the poet.

Vice-Chancellor Prof M Moniruzzaman Miah will lead the DU team.

Chhayanat programme

Chhayanat, a leading cultural institution of the country, has arranged a function at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in observance of the 93rd birth anniversary of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam tomorrow (Monday) at 7 pm.

Chhayanat students will participate in the function.

Polytechnic teachers conference

A two-day conference of Bangladesh Polytechnic Shikkhak Samity (Teachers' Association) begins tomorrow (Monday) at the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute auditorium.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Striar will open the conference at 4 pm as Chief guest.

The second day's programme includes a seminar on 'Polytechnical education for self-reliance' at the Teachers' Training Centre.

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury will attend the seminar as chief guest.



Indian High Commissioner K Raghunath called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office Saturday. —PID photo

Programmes to observe Zia's death anniversary

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has decided to observe the 11th death anniversary of the founder of the party President Ziaur Rahman on May 30 with due honour and solemnity, a BNP press release said here Saturday night, reports BSS.

All the district, Thana, Pouro and Ward Committees and front organisations of the BNP have been requested to

chalk out elaborate programmes to observe the death anniversary.

In the capital, the day's programme will begin with the hoisting of black flag and party flag at half mast at the central office in the morning. Quran Khwani will be held at the Mazar of President Zia at 6 am and party leaders and followers of Zia will lay wreaths on the mazar at 9 am and offer Fatcha there. A Milad Mahfil will also be held at the mazar premises. A discussion on the life and works of President Zia will be held at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers at 4 pm.

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal also chalked out similar programme to observe the day with due honour and solemnity.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy will hold a speech competition for the students from class VI to VIII on "Zia—A Friend of the Tinytots" at 1 pm at the academy auditorium. The academy will also hold a discussion on the life and works of President Ziaur Rahman at 4 pm. It will be followed by the distribution of prizes and holding of a Milad Mahfil.

Muktijoddha Sangsad meets Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Nine central leaders of a faction of Muktijoddha Sangsad (Ahad-Aziz) yesterday welcomed the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for her statement regarding the country's freedom fighters.

Begum Zia urged the freedom fighters to take part unitedly in various development efforts undertaken by her government when the other segment of the sangsad (Mahfuz-Kabir) met Begum Zia at her Sugandha office Friday. The Prime Minister also told the Sangsad leaders that measures would be taken for betterment of the freedom fighters.

The nine Muktijoddha Sangsad leaders issued a statement at a press conference in the city calling for a solid unity of the freedom fighters for the greater interest of the nation. Mohammad Ali Choudhury read out the statement which listed 16 leaders of the Ahad-Aziz group. But only nine of them were present. Those included Mohammad Siddiq Ullah, Vice-Chairman, Zafar Iqbal, Vice-Chairman, Shamsur Rahman, Joint Secretary General, Golam Mowla, Assistant Organising Secretary, Anwar Hossain Bhuiyan, member, Shafiqur Rahman, Law Affairs Secretary, Abul Kalam Azad and Nazrul Islam, secretarial members of the Ahad-Aziz faction's Central Command Council.

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