

Dhaka Day by Day

Sartorial Changes in Bangladeshi Males

by A S M Nurunnabi

In our country there are no distinctive features in dress, formal or informal, for our males. Most of the dresses they wear are non-descript in nature. There is perhaps some virtue in this, as it gives one greater freedom of choice and spares one from the straight-jacket of convention. In a country where the climate is mostly hot and humid, a dress that is light and loose allowing ventilation of air in the body is generally preferred.

This specification is seen to be amply fulfilled in the recent trend in casual dress for the males. The current preference for 'punjabi' (kurta) and white pajama among all — young and old — is here indicated. Gone are the days when men used to wear 'she-rwan' and 'choot' pajama for formal occasions, of course with a few exceptions. Now their place appears to have been mostly taken by the knee-length kurta.

Incidentally, I had in the past some embarrassing moments in a shopping centre in an Urdu-speaking country when I asked for a 'punjabi', as we call it. The shopkeeper looked dumb. When I pointed out such a thing in the showcase, his perplexed look vanished and he produced the thing. Obviously he was baffled by my request which probably meant something like an inhabitant of Punjab to him.

Indication of the present preference for kurta is available in almost all city shops dealing in ready-made garments for males. There are, for example, a chain of shops on the New Elephant Road which deal exclusively in these items of dress.

Lately the 'kurta' part of the dress has acquired great lure on account of the myriad of

tractive designs embroidered in front and shoulders. Previously this was plain, drab and not worthy of much attention. Now it comes in an assortment of dress materials — cotton, silk, polyester, etc. — with designs ranging from simple to gaudy to artistic. The over-all impact has been that it is now elevated almost to the status of a formal dress. We find evidence of this in gatherings where western dress is taboo. For some religious functions particularly, this dress enjoys predominant preference. When Eid days come, the popularity of this dress is so much that shops dealing in it are virtually mobbed. In the city's boutique shops and shopping arcades of posh hotels, many attractive specimens of this dress can be seen with a high price tag.

The extent of this dress can be gauged from the fact that in the recent past some foreign diplomats reportedly fell victims to its charm. One story had it that particularly one foreign diplomat had a bag packed with kurtas when he left the country at the end of his assignment.

There is a variant of this dress known as 'Peshwari' or 'Kabuli' suit with loose flowing shirt and loose 'shalwar'. Although this dress is sometimes worn for formal occasions, it could not get much popularity, because of our hot climate. Besides, it is more expensive than an elaborately embroidered 'kurta'.

The 'kurta' for the males, however, bears no comparison with its counterpart for the females which is more variegated and gorgeous in colour and designs and a subject of fashion shows.



French envoy calls on Salam

Ambassador of France in Bangladesh Serge Degallat called on LORD and Cooperative Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder at his office Tuesday, reports BSS.

They discussed the problems of drinking water supply in Dhaka. The Ambassador showed his eagerness to give financial help to remove the problems.

The French government has already committed to give about Taka one hundred crore to implement Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant which would cater to the need of Dhaka City dwellers.

The Secretary of Local Government Division of the Ministry Mushfiqur Rahman and Chairman of Dhaka WASA Group Captain (ret'd) Nurul Islam were present.

2 cyclone shelters open at Mongla

MONGLA, May 26: Two cyclone shelters were formally opened at Joymani and Kalatala near Mongla yesterday by Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, Mayor of Khulna City Corporation, according to an official hand-out, reports BSS.

These shelters were constructed by Caritas, a foreign Non-Government Organisation, at a cost of Taka seventy lakh. About four thousand people will be able to take shelter there.

Caritas has also planned to build 12 more such shelters in the coastal belt in near future.

National seminar on rule of law May 29

National seminar '92 titled "Rule of law and Islam" will be held at the gallery of the Islamic University, Kushtia, on May 29, reports UNB.

"Ideal Law Students' Organisation of the Islamic University" has arranged the seminar.

Justice AKM Nurul Islam will address the seminar as chief guest while Amanullah Khan, Chairman, United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and Member of Human Rights and legal Affairs, Bangladesh, will be special guest.

The seminar will be inaugurated by Prof Muhammad Abdul Hamid, Vice-Chancellor of the Islamic University.

Steps to remove disparity of laws against women suggested

A five-member delegation of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad led by its General Secretary Ayesha Khan met Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tarikul Islam at the Secretariat Tuesday, reports BSS.

The delegation informed the Minister of certain proposals of the Parishad on removing disparity of laws against women and also made some suggestions in this regard.

Wednesday

- 5:00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:20 Recitation from the Geta
- 5:30 Campus
- 6:00 Sports Programme: Gillete World Sports Special
- 6:30 Samachar
- 7:05 Hijal Tamal (Folk Songs)
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Sangbad Parikrama
- 9:00 Film Show: MacGyver
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Special Programme on Nazrul's birthday
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Thursday's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing.

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Khulna and Dhaka division and at a few places over Chittagong and Rajshahi Division during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Tuesday.

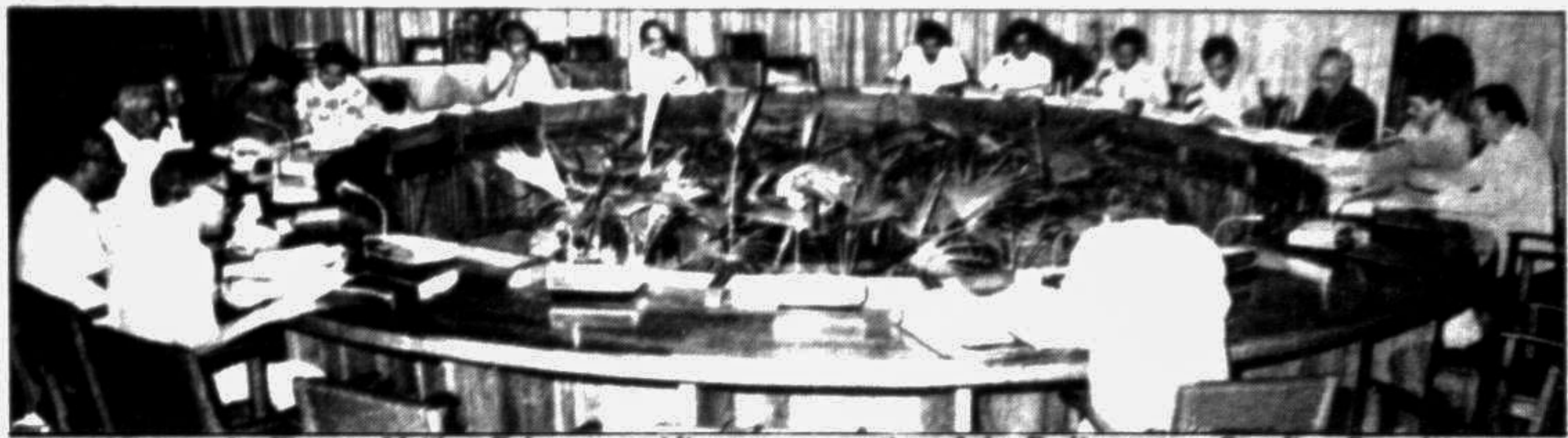
Meteorological office sources said day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

Rainfall was recorded in Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Comilla, Tangail, Faridpur, Barisal, Bhola, Khepupara, Satkhira, Jessore, Chuadanga, Ishwardi and Bogra.

The sun sets in Dhaka Wednesday at 6-40 pm and rises Thursday at 5-11 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns Tuesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	29.6	22.8
Chittagong	32.0	23.7
Rajshahi	27.0	21.2
Khulna	30.2	21.7
Barisal	29.6	21.6
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.0
Sylhet	31.6	21.6
Rangpur	29.8	22.6
Rangamati	33.0	
		9 am
		6 pm
		86
		73
		83
		82
		98
		77
		80
		74
		58



State Minister for Finance Mojibar Rahman presiding over a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Finance at the Sangsad Bhaban Tuesday. —PID photo

Plea for budget free from donors' control

By Staff Correspondent

Country's leading politicians and economists and other professionals Tuesday sought a budget free from control of the donor agencies which would help alleviate poverty.

They were speaking at a discussion meeting on 'national budget and the Consumers Interest' organised by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh at Jatiya Press Club.

Dr Kamal Hossain, Awami League (AL) Presidium member said the politicians would again take to the streets for a consensus aiming at changes in the administration inherited from the autocratic regime if the government failed to do so.

Dr Kamal said the movement would not be of destruction and anarchy. It would rather help the government in emancipation of the lot of general masses, he added.

He said democracy has been established but the basic needs of the people yet to be met. "The society must be freed from such situation with a view to giving democracy an institutional shape", he said adding if the Finance Minister failed to do so through a pragmatic budget, the situation would further aggravate.

He said the budget must be formulated in view of the reality of the situation faced by the nation.

He further said the political parties could not reach a consensus excepting the 12th amendment of the constitution. He stated that the politicians must open dialogue with sincerity and identify the tangles to reach a consensus.

Kamal warned that the politicians would launch a greater movement to free the

economy from black money holders and mastans if the government failed to do so.

He said that the 'Mafia's' of the autocratic regime were still very much active and questioned why the country had still been held hostage to them.

Rashed Khan Menon, General Secretary of Bangladesh Workers Party said the country must be freed from the central of the donor agencies.

He said the interest of the consumers will be protected only when the political will of the country underscores the need for self-reliance.

He said, the loan defaulters identified by the Finance Minister have been rehabilitated and alleged that the proposed committee for identifying defaulters have not yet been formed.

Menon said the expenditure on the unproductive and defence sectors must be curtailed. He questioned whether the military expenditure in the Chittagong Hill Tracts could be cut reaching a political solution to the problem.

He said if the rights of the poor are not established in the society development will obviously hamper.

Prof Dr Mozaffar Ahmed said there had not been any excess labour force in the government sector till 1974 and the existing surplus labour is the legacy of the 'politicization' after that period.

Mahabubul Alam, Whip of the Parliament said the nation inherited a consumerism attitude which is not at all favourable for the poor community.

He suggested withdrawal of surcharges from savings in

current fiscal year compared to corresponding period of last year.

The committee members underscored the need for making the Parliamentary Standing Committee more effective so that it could reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people.

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ICDDR,B launches Bangla newsletter

The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh Tuesday launched a Bangla newsletter "Shasthya Sanglap," which aims at reaching healthcare personnel working at the union and upazila levels in the country, reports UNB.

Blessing the launching, health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said the newsletter will have far-reaching effect in transferring the lessons learned through research at the Centre to the health workers in the field.

He said the ultimate beneficiaries will be the young children and mothers of rural Bangladesh who suffer illness and fatalities from preventable and curable diseases, most of ten diarrhoeal diseases.

Through the evolution of new and improved methods of clinical management, health providers at the union and upazila levels can deliver better and quicker services to those seeking medical attention, he said.

ICDDR,B Director Prof Demisse Habte, Resident Representative of UNICEF Cole P. Dodge, Acting Representative of WHO Prof Myo Thwe and Charge d' Affairs of Switzerland Albert Meher also spoke on the occasion.

Tribals, non-tribals urged to sink differences Consensus to maintain peace, harmony in Rangamati

CHITTAGONG, May 26: Leaders of different shades of opinion, prominent tribal and non-tribal citizens, officials, students and the common people have been putting in concerted efforts to maintain peace and harmony among different communities at Rangamati town since the May 20 incident, reports BSS.

A number of meetings and discussions was held there during the past few days in this direction, it was learnt here.

A meeting of prominent leaders and citizens, students and journalists held yesterday under the auspices of Rangamati district administration expressed firm determination to maintain peace and harmony at any cost.

It was the fourth meeting held under the auspices of the district administration and attended by leaders of different shades of opinion.

Raja Debashish Roy, former presidential adviser B K Dewan, BNP leader Nazimuddin, Pahari Chhatra Parishad leader Pratim Roy, Pranith Bikas Khisba, Dhira J Chakma, Saktiman Chakma, who attended the fourth meeting appealed all sections of

people to maintain peace and harmony among tribals and non-tribals in the town.

They also extended whole-hearted cooperation to the district administration, security forces and law enforcing agencies in their efforts to maintain law and order.

Raja Debashish Roy called upon all concerned to refrain from making provocative statements and spreading rumours in order to maintain peace in Rangamati town.

B K Dewan urged the tribals and non-tribals to forget their differences and promote harmony and peace among them.

He said, bickerings and clashes between tribals and non-tribals would hamper development works in the Hill Tract.

Other leaders also expressed similar opinions saying, tribals and non-tribals have been living in peace and harmony in Rangamati town for many years and they would make all-out efforts to maintain the tradition.

No untoward incident took place in Rangamati town during the past week, district administration sources said today.

'Blood test of aliens can help prevent AIDS'

Deputy Leader of the House in Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury Tuesday called for strict screening of foreigners in the country's land and maritime borders as an AIDS-preventive measure, reports UNB.

Blood test of the foreigners passing through Chittagong port and Khulna and Benapole borders should be done to determine whether they are carrying AIDS virus, he told a workshop on "Laboratory Technology on AIDS" at the Public Health Institute in Dhaka.

Emphasising the need for preventive measures as it's not a curable disease, Professor Chowdhury said "we should go for more and more preventive measures rather than curative methods."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the District Food Controller Chittagong Tender/Auction Sale Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from intending tenderers for sale of 965.459 M. tons waste salt, no way fit for human consumption but can be taken into industrial use, kept at different godowns/stacks of Halishahar CSD in Chittagong district as it is where it is basis. Besides tender, public auction, as per the undermentioned timetable will be held to dispose of the waste salt.

Any Foodgrains Licence holder/Licenceless trader, industrial firm can participate in the tender/auction. But no Government employee, Ration dealer/contractor/atta/flour/rice mill owner or foodgrains carrying contractor can participate in the said auction.

Date and time of submitting tender	Tender to be submitted to	Date and time of auction	Place of auction
6-6-92 23-2-99 BS up to 11 am.	In the Tender Box kept at the office of Director, Supply Distribution and Marketing, Directorate of Food, Dhaka or Regional Controller of Food, Chittagong or District Controller of Food, Chittagong.	6-6-92 23-2-99 BS at 12 Noon.	Office compound of District Controller of Food, Chittagong.

Other terms and conditions of Tender Memo No 1812 (150) dt 17-5-92 can be obtained from the office of the Director, Supply, Distribution and Marketing Division, Directorate of Food, Dhaka; Regional Controller of Food, Chittagong or District Controller of Food, Chittagong on government working days.

The authorities concerned reserve the right to accept/reject any tender/auction bid or to reject all tenders/auction bids without assigning any reason.

Nazme Ara Begum
District Controller of Food (Acting)
Chittagong
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