

Dhaka Day by Day

Rahima's Story

by Qazi M Fazal

I once saw the maid servant of my house standing below a mango tree in the backyard. She was combing her hair and looking off to the distance. She was not observing anything in particular, just her life I suppose.

Rahima is 20 years old but she seems much older. She gave birth to a son, but had to leave him behind with her husband so that she could work as a maid to earn some money. Her husband, meanwhile, married someone else and took her money from her with the excuse that her son needed medicine and better food. Apparently, her son was suffering from some mysterious ailment that reduced him to skin and bones. She eventually took her son to a doctor who new at once that the one year old child was dying of malnutrition. Her husband and his other wife did not feed her son. They merely took her earnings. Soon, the baby died.

But does she feel any pang of anger at her fate and the fate of her son? I see my sisters kiss and hug their children with much love and affection. When Rahima sees them, does she question why she was not able to do the same to her soon? She was born into a poor family, and does she accept without question her condition fated to be thus? I wonder what was thinking when she was combing her hair that day. There was no resentment or anger written in her face. Simply a clam acceptance of her life as it is. But how is that possible? How can she not question the capriciousness of fate that let her son die but allow my nephews to be spoilt? From where does she draw her calmness?

I know she is not very religious in any consistent manner, but she believes in God. Does she think that in the afterlife she will get some reward for her suffering in this world? Perhaps it has been indoctrinated within her that since she is a woman, she has to suffer her husband's cruelty and polygamy. Maybe, she retains the traditional, backward mentality that she is inferior to those who have been fortunate enough to be wealthy; therefore, being inferior, she is resigned to the fact that she has to lead an inferior life. Or perhaps she has seen people in worse-off situations than her and feels fortunate to be able to feed herself three times a day.

I am quite certain that there are many Rahimas working in well-to-do households who have a story to tell.



One of the many Rahimas in our country.

Govt plans to establish 9,000 more primary schools

Country's overall development is not possible without the active support of women who constitute half of the population, said Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of parliament, reports UNB.

Addressing a motivation assembly of the Inner Wheel Club district 328 at a local hotel Friday, Prof Chowdhury emphasised the need for creating leadership at all spheres of society, specially in the field of education and poverty alleviation.

Women can take responsibility in this regard better than others as they are the most active as well as honest work force of the country, he said.

Regarding the importance of involving women with the primary education and mass literacy, Prof Chowdhury said women will be more successful in these regard as through them a whole family can be educated.

The government has a plan to establish another 9,000 primary schools in the country

and for this 20,000 teachers will be recruited. Of them, 90-95 per cent will be women teachers, he added.

On nutrition, Prof Chowdhury said problem of malnutrition could easily be solved just by planting beans on one crore thatched houses across the country. "Hard beans provide some 30-35 per cent protein".

Work of Khulna reformatory school in progress

Work on setting up one reformatory school in the Khulna Divisional Headquarters is in progress, reports BSS.

The school for correction and rehabilitation of the under-trial delinquents will be completed in June, 1993, according to Bangladesh Economic Survey of 1991-92.

The school, when completed, will accommodate 150 inmates.

Referring to carbohydrate food, he said that nearly 15 lakh tons of food deficit in the country could also be met through growing habit of eating potato, also a good source of Vitamin A and C which taken regularly prevent cataract diseases.

Presided over by past district chairman Farhat Rahim, the function was also addressed by Inner Wheel Club International representative Prof Asma Abbasi, newly elected Chairman of Inner Wheel Club district 328 Lutfa Kamal and Assembly Chairman Rokeya Shahid.

DSE amends articles

Dhaka Stock Exchange Thursday amended the articles relating to the expansion and duration of the council, says a DSE press release.

At a general meeting the step was taken with a view to making the council more effective.

Under the amended clause, government will nominate three representatives to the council raising the strength of the council to 12.

One from Finance Ministry or financial institution, one president from any of the chambers of commerce and industry and one chartered accountant or economist will be chosen as representatives.

The duration of the council will be extended from one year to two years.

Embarrassing for a cop!

By Staff Correspondent

It was really embarrassing for a police constable when he caught a person in the troubled area during Thursday's clashes but immediately identified that the arrested person was one of his relatives.

The constable, however, saved his kin from the hands of his colleagues who had started beating him up after his arrest near Purana Paltan square.

The victim identified himself as Faruk, a pan-bidi shopkeeper in Jatrabari area but refused to disclose his political identity. He was later released after a slight rebuke by the constable.

Talking to The Daily Star Faruk refused to give the name of his constable relative and also denied his participation in the clashes.

Appeal to send Sunil Banerjee abroad for treatment

Forty-eight intellectuals in a joint statement in Dhaka Friday, demanded of the government to make immediate arrangements for the treatment abroad of Sunil Banerjee, a senior reporter of Dainik Bangla, reports BSS.

Banerjee has been suffering from heart ailments and needs to be sent abroad, the statement said. The signatories include Dr Ahmed Sharif, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Zillur Rahman Siddiqi, Sarder Fazlul Karim, Gazil Huq, Syed Manzurul Islam, Dr. Mahabubullah, Shamsun Nahar, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Al-Mujahidi, Sushil Chandra Howlader, Madhav Chandra Dey, Golam Moynuddin, Moinal Hasan, Bashir al-Helal, Asad Chowdhury, Rashid Haider, Tridib Dastidar and Zakaria Chowdhury.

Uttara Club starts functioning

A new club by the name of Uttara Club started its functioning in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The club has been formed recently at Uttara with the election of a 11 member executive committee. A Matin Khan, adviser of the Pubali Bank Limited, and Mir A Sattar, Managing Director of the UAE-Bangladesh Investment Company Limited, have been elected President and honorary Secretary of the club respectively.

Other executives-elect are: Vice-presidents - S M Akram, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Establishment, and Md. Nazrul Islam, Managing Director of National Construction Company Limited and honorary treasurer - A H Anwar Hossain, Secretary to the Board of IFIC Bank.

The formal opening of the club will take place sometime in July this year.

Taka 195.65 crore earned in 1991-92

Bangladesh earned Taka 195.65 crore against the target of Taka 463.58 crore during 1991-92, according to economic survey report released Thursday, reports BSS.

An additional amount of Taka 97.71 crore is, however, expected to be earned through export of jute goods during April-June, 1992, the report predicted.

Thus the earnings through export of jute goods would reach a total of about Taka 293.35 crore against the target of Taka 463.58 crore, the report mentioned.

The survey report said, the export of jute goods during 1991-92 would fall short by 16,000 metric tons compared to the previous year, meaning Taka 24.79 crore less export earning from the jute sector.

Weather

Day temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Light to moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind with moderately heavy falls is likely to occur at many places over Khulna division and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions within the next 24 hours commencing from 6 am today (Saturday).

The Met office forecasts day temperature is likely to fall by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over the country.

The country's highest temperature of 36.4 degree Celsius recorded Friday was reported from Rajshahi while the lowest of 23.5 degree Celsius was reported from Bogra.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.49 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5.12 am.

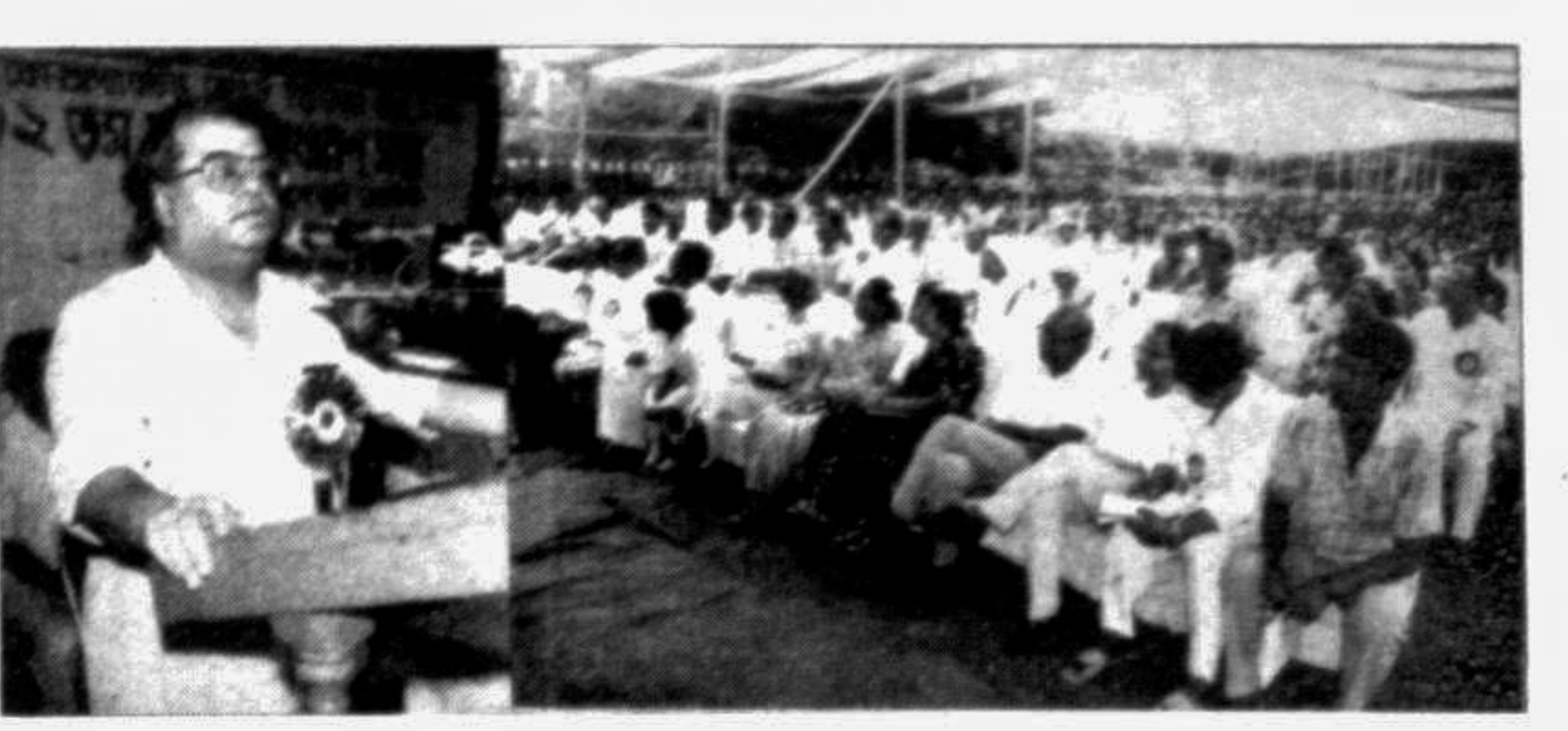
The maximum and the minimum temperatures and humidity of some major cities and towns of the country recorded Friday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Towns, Max, Min, Humidity in percentage. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Barisal, Rangpur.

BTV Saturday schedule: 5-00 Opening announcement Al-Quran, 5-10 Programme summary, 5-30 News in Bangla, 5-30 Sports programme, 6-00 Drama series: Tom's Midnight Garden, 6-30 Matt O Manush, 7-05 Panshari, 8-00 News in Bangla, 8-30 Prabaha, 9-00 Ujjiban, 10-00 News in English, 10-30 Drama series: Dallas, 11-30 Khabar/The News, 11-40 Sunday's programme summary, 11-45 Closing.

STAR TV WORLD SERVICE TELEVISION Saturday schedule: 00:00 World News, 00:25 World Business Report, 01:00 World News, 01:25 News from London, 02:00 World News, 02:25 Question Time, 03:00 World Headline, 03:05 Documentary, 04:00 World News, 04:25 News from London, 05:00 World News, 05:25 Kilroy, 06:00 World News, 06:25 Newsnight, 07:00 World News, 07:25 Business Matters, 08:00 World News, 08:25 Newsnight, 09:00 World News, 09:25 Tomorrow's World, 10:00 World News, 10:25 Crime Ltd, 11:00 World Headlines, 11:05 TBA, 12:00 World News, 12:25 Network East, 13:00 World News, 13:25 Business Matters, 14:00 World News, 14:25 Whicker's World, 15:00 World Headlines, 15:05 TBA, 16:00 World News, 17:00 World News, 17:25 Whicker's World, 18:00 World News, 18:25 Network East, 19:00 World News, 19:25 Crime Ltd, 20:00 World News, 20:25 The Late Show, 21:00 World News, 21:25 World News Week, 22:00 World Headlines, 22:05 TBA, 23:00 World News, 23:25 Network East.

STAR Plus Saturday schedule: 00:00 hrs USA Top 20 Video Countdown, 02:00 MTV Weekend Special: Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, 03:00 Music Videos - VJ Danny McGill, 05:00 The Day in Rock, 06:00 Party Zone, 09:00 MTV Power Pack, 11:00 MTV Mon Amour, 12:00 Awake on the Wild Side, 15:00 Music Videos - VJ Danny McGill, 18:00 USA Top 20 Video Countdown, 20:00 The Week in Rock, 20:30 Best of Saturday Night Live, 21:00 Party Zone.



Information Minister Nazmul Huda addressing the opening ceremony of the new building of the Christian Cooperation Credit Union Limited in the city Friday. —Star photo

'Conspiracy being hatched to destroy communal harmony'

Information Minister Nazmul Huda said in Dhaka Friday Bangladesh has set up a bright example of communal harmony despite provocation, instigation and machination from within, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the newly constructed building of the Christian Co-operative Credit Union Limited here.

The Information Minister said many countries in the world and around Bangladesh were torn by conflicts and clashes and even war due to communal causes. Bangladesh is a powerful country of communal harmony, but an unholy quarter is hatching a conspiracy to destroy the communal harmony, this particular quarter has been indulging in propaganda.

As part of this conspiracy this unholy quarter has been creating confusion among the people to the effect that thousands of people of minority community were going to other country following repression and oppression on them, he added.

He further said the present government strongly believed in the constitutional guarantee

on the religious rights of the people and its principle that there would be no discrimination because of religion and everybody would have the right to follow and propagate his religion.

In this connection, he pointed out that although ninety per cent people of Bangladesh are Muslims, the Muslim, Hindu, Buddha and Christian communities have

been living in their respective sphere and there is nothing to look at or do community wise. The rights and privileges of the Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians have been enshrined in the constitution for their respective position, there seemed to be no necessity to form forums on the basis of religious groupings like Muslims, Hindus and Christians, he added.

Two killed in road mishap

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were killed on the spot as a speeding truck rammed into a push cart at Tejgaon Industrial Area in the city Thursday night.

Immediately after the incident, the agitated people of the area seized the 'killer' truck bearing No Dhaka Da-3459 and set it on fire. The mob in their frenzy also damaged several vehicles plying on the road at around 10 pm last night.

Of the victims, one was identified as Shah Alam, 28, while the other aged about 55 could not be identified immediately.

When contacted Tejgaon police confirmed the incident but could not give any detail.

Blast kills one in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A young man was killed in a bomb blast in the city Friday.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources said that Rangal Madan, (23), who was injured in a bomb explosion at the Chowdhury Tannery at Hazaribagh Thursday, succumbed to his injuries at Friday morning.

Madan was brought at the hospital in a dying state, they said.

Bangladesh Railway Tender Notice No : 3/92

Dated : 4/6/1992 The Chief Controller of Stores, Bangladesh Railway, Pahartali, Chittagong invites quotations against the following tenders:

Table with 7 columns: Sl. No., Tender No. & Description of Stores with quantity, Price of Tender Documents, Cost of Drg. & Specn., Postage Charges, Period of selling Tender, Date of opening. Rows include Brake safety Strap and Oxygen Regulator.

Non transferable tender documents may be obtained from the office of the undersigned as well as ACOS/DA's Office from the 9-00 hrs. to 12-00 hrs. on all working days either on cash payment or remittance of the charges (non-refundable) by money order.

Rail/B/140 DFP (G) 12547-15/6 G-769 Chief Controller of Stores Bangladesh Railway/Pahartali, Chittagong.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার অধ্যক্ষের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ, ময়মনসিংহ. অতীব জরুরী ভিত্তিতে সংক্ষিপ্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. এতদ্বারা ১৯৯১-৯২ ইং আর্থিক বৎসরে ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজের গৃহস্থাপনার চিকিৎসা বহি ও সাময়িকী ক্রয় ও সংগ্রহের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিক ও বৈধ চিকিৎসা বহি ও সাময়িকী ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারী/ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠান এর নিকট হইতে তাহাদের খ-খ লেটার হেড প্যাডে অতীব জরুরী ভিত্তিতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে সংক্ষিপ্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।