

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Green Grows the Coconut

by Parveen Anam

When the perils of summer weigh heavily on the body and soul, and life is a strain, we often feel that the longest, cold drink would perhaps ease the rigours of the heat. Man has exerted himself to the utmost to find ways to keep himself cool and comfortable. And now the environmentalists have come along with the very positive idea that most things we like to associate with comfort are bad for the environment. So air-conditioning is a very definite bad idea. Fizzy drinks, of which there is no lack in the city, are frowned upon by those who know. And most ice-creams are suspect. So that actually leaves us with no alternative but to turn again to mother nature to ease our discomfort. And we come to mother nature's greatest drink, the evergreen coconut. For, who can deny that the green coconut is a drink which none can resist both in terms of cost and environment-friendly business? The little man, selling those green coconuts around every corner in the heat of the summer, is the commonest sight in this city of ours. He is the one bravely sitting out in the sun, catering to the thirsty wayfarers, though quite oblivious to the fact that he is the environmentalists' dream come true. And the saviour of the germ conscious citizen. Mother nature never lets man down. It was man himself who polluted himself and everything around him. The green coconut is the biggest proof of the generosity of nature's ways. It is the purest drink that man can have, safe from preservatives and human hands! Perhaps we



should put labels on those little green coconuts, saying 'Untouched by human hands?' It is one of nature's greatest wonders, undoubtedly. And loved by the doctors, who wish every individual had the good sense to drink the juice of one of those coconuts, instead of gorging on the fizzy drinks and other equally unhealthy concoctions.

The man coconut walla does not own trees to carry on business. He comes along regularly to the houses which have the coconut trees, and, in return for payment in kind, with the green coconuts, 'cleans' those trees. The other word for pruning. The trees are supposed to give better yields if they are regularly pruned, and who is better at it, than that man, who is up the tree, like a shot, cutting and shearing with a deft hand? And in return he expects nothing more than a few of those green coconuts which he has brought down. These he goes and sells round the corner of the street. Simple actually. Of course, there are the odd few, who will bring them across from the villages to sell. But these are few indeed. Most are dependent on the trees in the city itself. The transportation cost is much less, also, which consequently permits the man to sell the coconuts at a reasonable price. So everybody is happy. The man can also be seen selling these coconuts at bus stops, train stations, ferry ghats, you name it. Much to the joy and comfort of the thirsty traveller. So, when life is getting a bit much, relax with that drink, the eternal green coconut.

## Clash between two factions of BNP condemned

By Staff Correspondent  
Ganatantri Party on Wednesday condemned the clash between two factions of the ruling party that created panic in Gulistan and Kaptanbazar area.

Party General Secretary Mohammad Afzal said in a press release that two rival groups of BNP created a law and order situation in those areas for the past several days. He alleged that several shops were looted during the panicky incident.

The Ganatantri Party Secretary also demanded resignation of the Home Minister for his failure in restoring normalcy in the country.

## Altaf Hossain improving

By Staff Correspondent  
The condition of ailing Ganatantri Party leader Syed Altaf Hossain slightly improved after being given chemotherapy in a hospital in London. He will be given another dose on July 23, party sources said. He has been suffering from cancer.

## Reghunath meets Home Minister

The High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh, K Reghunath, called on Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at his secretariat office yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of bilateral issues. They expressed the hope that the existing good relations between the two friendly neighbouring countries would be further strengthened in the days to come.

## Ambassador of ROK calls on Sadeque

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Bangladesh Sung Oh Shin called on Sadeque Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports at his secretariat office yesterday, reports BSS.

The Ambassador stayed with the State Minister for sometimes and discussed matters of bilateral and mutual interest.

## 'Prepare land records properly'

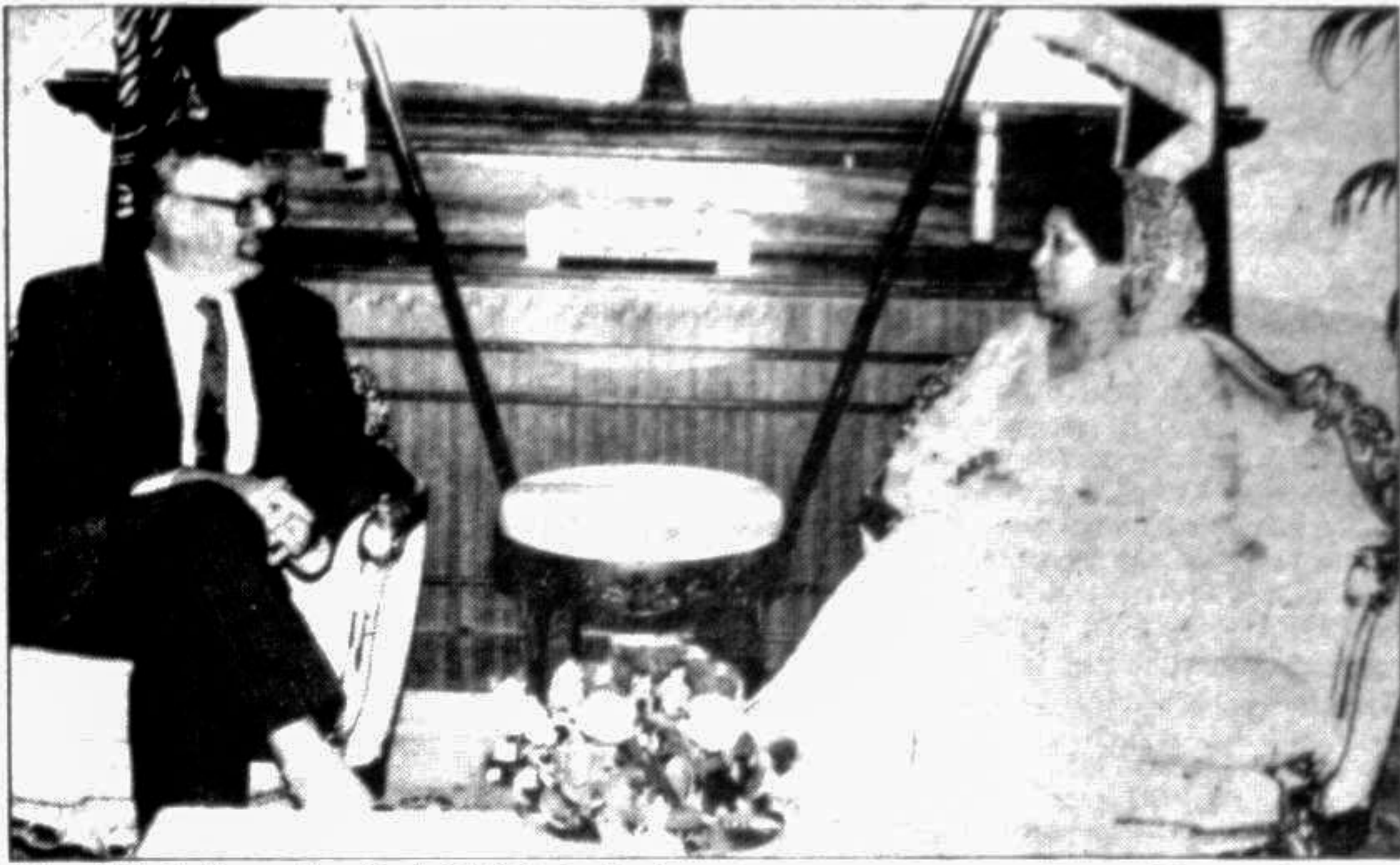
State Minister for Land M Kabir Hossain Wednesday called upon the settlement officers and employees to prepare and preserve the land records properly to avoid unnecessary civil litigations, reports BSS.

The State Minister was addressing a conference of the settlement officers and employees here. One thousand settlement officers including employees from all over the country attended the conference.

Land Secretary M Aminul Islam spoke on this occasion. Kabir Hossain said that the present government was committed to establish an efficient administration to bring an end to the sufferings of the people.

He urged the settlement officers and employees to work with dedication and sincerity to achieve objectives of the government plans and programmes.

He also emphasised the need for maintaining land records to make the process of land transfer easier. The conference was also addressed by Director-General of Land Records M Mokhlesur Rahman.



Swedish Ambassador Carl Olof Cederblad made a farewell call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. — PID photo

## Govt keen to make education system effective

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar said in Dhaka Wednesday that the present government was keen to bring about changes in the country's education system to make it effective and benefit the people, reports BSS.

He was addressing the inaugural session of a seminar on 'Policy Issues at the Secondary and Higher Secondary Levels of Education' at the National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM).

The Minister laid stress on the efficient management, effective curriculum, satisfaction examination system and meaningful vocational education for improving the education system. Sircar dwelt on the issues

and problems in the field of secondary and higher secondary education and underlined the need for restructuring and improving the system. He said efforts would be taken to train the teachers in phases so that they could provide proper education to our pupils.

Presided over by Education Secretary Shafiqul Alam the function was addressed by State Minister for Education Principal Muhammad Yunus Khan.

Dr F K Chowdhury, Chief of Planning, Ministry of Education, presented an issue paper at the inaugural session.

About 80 delegates including Vice Chancellors of some selected universities, Chair-

man of the University Grants Commission, researchers, journalists and representatives from all cadres of education attended the day-long seminar. On the examination system, the Minister said that the education system should be framed in the context of Bangladesh.

He said that there should be three boards — the primary, the secondary and the college — for smooth conducting of the examinations at different levels of education.

Referring to private schools, colleges and universities in the European countries which achieved notable successes, the Minister also encouraged setting up educational institutions at private levels.

## Death condoled

The BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Tahkader Wednesday condoled the death of the organising secretary of Nabinagar thana unit of the party Rabindra Chandra Saha, reports BSS.

Happy Birthday  
To  
**Tawfiq Aziz Khan**  
Managing Editor  
From: Colleagues at The Daily Star

Happy Birthday  
To  
**Shaon**  
Abbu, Ammu & Meow.

Happy Birthday  
To  
**Shimul**  
From: Abbu, Ammu & Sayem

## Australian HC calls on Speaker

The Australian High Commissioner Richard Gate made a courtesy call on the Speaker, Shaikh Razzaque Ali, at his office chamber at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

They exchanged views on bilateral and parliamentary issues including exchange of parliamentary delegation between the two countries.

## LGEB trains 225 officials

CHITTAGONG, July 15: Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGE) training unit at Chittagong trained 225 field officials during the last fiscal year by arranging 14 courses, according to an official hand-out, reports BSS.

The courses imparted training on technical, administration and financial management for increasing skill of officials responsible for rural road network uplift.

The main objective of the training courses was infrastructure development in order to ensure quality construction work in rural areas.

With financial assistance of SIDA and Norway, LGE Chittagong training unit trains field level officials of Chittagong, Feni, Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts.

## ILO training course ends

A two-week training on 'Backyard Poultry Rearing' organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) ended at Savar Wednesday, reports BSS.

The training programme was organised under the ILO's project of 'Technologies for Rural Employment with Special Reference to Women'.

About 60 women from Pabna, Comilla and Brahmanbaria took part in the programme.

Assistant Director General of ILO's Asian Regional Office, T Nakamura was present at the concluding session. He also gave away certificates among the participants.

## Raffle draw held

A Raffle under the auspices of Bangladesh Navy Family Welfare Association was held at BNS Haji Mohosin at Dhaka Cantonment Wednesday, says a press release.

Following are the results of the raffle: 1st prize ticket no. 32617, 2nd prize ticket no. 34771, 3rd prize ticket no. 33329, 4th prize ticket no. 30702 and 5th prize ticket no. 30701.

## HERE and THERE

### BARC

Pursuant to Prime Minister's call for nationwide tree plantation, the Officers and Employees Associations of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) arranged distribution of 500 saplings of Mehogoni, Shal, Shil Koro, Chapa, Jhau, Kanthal, Umra, Bel, Jaam, Kazi Peyara, Gamar, Deb Daru etc. Dr M Sujayet Ullah Chowdhury, Executive Vice-Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council distributed the saplings among the officers and staff of BARC Wednesday in a simple ceremony.

**Chuadanga Samity**  
Chuadanga Zilla Samity (CZS) has decided to offer a good number of stipends in the year 1992 among the students studying at graduation and post-graduation levels.

The decision came in a meeting of the Executive Committee of CZS held on July 3 under the chairmanship of Prof Depak Lal Choudhury. Interested students hailing from Chuadanga are requested to apply in the prescribed form which is now available from its office at 34 Green Road, Nawab Mansion, 4th Floor, Dhaka 1205. Closing date for submission of applications is August 13.

### ALRD workshop

The four-day workshop on 'Mobilisation of Landless for Participatory Development: Role of Mass Media' organised by Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) concluded Tuesday evening in Dhaka.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz on July 11.

Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, Dr Atiur Rahman, Barrister Lutfor Rahman Shahjahan, Sanaullah Noori, Dr Abul Barkat, Abdul Matin, Mahubul-Karim, Khushi Kabir, Monajat Uddin, Saleem Samad, Philip Gain, Reza Shamsur Rahman and Shafiqul Islam took part in the discussions.

### CPB

General Secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Nurul Islam Nahid in a statement yesterday expressed deep concern and resentment over the armed attack on a Chhatra Union meeting at Mirpur in the capital on Tuesday.

He demanded immediate action against the attackers who injured seven persons including Reazuddin, Biplob, Shamim Hassan Dipu and Rafiq. He also expressed sympathy for the victims.

### VAN

Voluntary Assistance for the Needy (VAN) and the Leo Club

of Jatrabari jointly organised a tree plantation programme at the VAN office in the city yesterday.

The programme was inaugurated through planting saplings at the VAN office. Saplings were also planted at South Jatrabari Madrasa, Daffodil Kindergarten, Jatrabari WAPDA Colony, Water Development Board Primary School and the slum areas surrounding it.

A total of 131 saplings of mehogoni, litchi, mango, jackfruit, and guava were planted during the programme.

### Sonali Bank Employees

Sonali Bank Employees Association in a meeting at the bank's head office yesterday demanded of the authorities to immediately accept the 10-point demand placed earlier by the Sonali Bank's Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA).

Chaired by A K M Jahangir, the meeting was addressed by Mohammad Sultan Howlader, Mohammad Abu Taher, Anup Kumar Sen, Asaduzzaman, Rafiqul Islam and Milton Kanti Kar.

### BCCI depositors

BCCI depositors association has decided to hold a meeting at the BCCI premises in the city on July 20 at 11 am.

The meeting has been convened in view of the authorities' initiative to float the bank under a new name.

## Weather

### No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday).

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country, the Met office forecasts and rainfall activities may increase during the next two days.

Yesterday (Wednesday), the north region of the country experienced rainfall by moderate amount. Dinajpur recorded 78 mm of rainfall in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm, Rangpur had 14 mm in 6 hours, Bogra 10 mm in 12 hours, while Rangamati 3 mm, Barisal 2 mm and Sylhet and Rajshahi recorded trace amount of rainfall.

The maximum temperature of 34.2 degree Celsius was reported from Jessore and the minimum of 23.0 was reported from Dinajpur yesterday.

The sun sets today at 6.49 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.21 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.2	27.5	83	76
Chittagong	32.0	25.8	92	77
Rajshahi	31.3	26.5	92	97
Khulna	33.4	25.7	86	84
Cox's Bazar	31.6	26.0	76	78
Sylhet	29.8	24.8	95	85
Dinajpur	27.7	23.0	98	90
Jessore	34.2	26.5	-	-

## 40 pc population suffer from iodine deficiency

RAJSHAH, July 15: About forty per cent of the total population of the country suffer from iodine deficiency disorders, speakers quoting a survey report told a seminar here yesterday, reports BSS.

Such deficiency, the report said, is the cause of goitre, cretinism and dwarfism, some very major syndromes of physical deformity. Goitre is a morbid enlargement of the thyroid gland producing a swelling in front of the throat while cretinism is a congenital deficiency of thyroid hormone, which leads to the mental deficiency and incomplete physical development of a child, and dwarfism is a condition of being dwarf.

The seminar organised jointly by the United Nations Children's Fund and the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) at the BSCIC industrial estate here was told that people with such disorders were being found in Rangpur, Jamalpur and Mymensingh. More than

ten per cent of the population of these areas have visible goitre, they said.

The speakers urged the people to use iodised salt with a view to meeting the iodine deficiency. They ascribed the cause of iodine deficiency to the low iodine content in soil and water in Bangladesh. Heavy rainfall and flood deplete the iodine content from our soil and water.

## Annual report of Press Council placed in JS

The annual report of Bangladesh Press Council, 1991 was placed before the Jatiya Sangsad Wednesday by Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, reports BSS.

The council, established under Press Council Act of 1974, held 21 sittings in 1991 when it received 23 cases, out of which only one case had been settled, one withdrawn and the rest 21 were stated to be prepared for hearing.

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