

Dhaka Day by Day

Asian Monsoon and Its Fluctuations

Fayza Haq



As if nothing happened . . . playful kids on the newly-raised embankment road at Jalali Union of Bangshkhali.

Speaking at a seminar, held at Alliance Francaise, Professor Maniruzzaman Mian, Vice Chancellor, Dhaka University, said that the monsoon winds had their fluctuations. He said that the South East Asian region was dependant on the water that fed our agricultural lands. Eighty per cent of the people of Bangladesh were directly or indirectly influenced by the floods and cyclones, the professor continued. The forecasting of the monsoon weather was a global programme, he said. He explained that there was a vast amount of information in the computers, used for cyclonic storms, but that they should have been used effectively. Professor Maniruzzaman Mian added that predictions of cyclones was difficult and that high powered computers were needed, as had been installed in New Delhi. The Vice-Chancellor added that there were quite a few experienced people at the Dhaka University, who could work with the data supplied from overseas. He said that he believed that the world should share its knowledge. He added that the country had once been a British colony and that Bangladesh gets information from the English speaking world, but that we needed the goodwill of the people of Europe too, as climatic studies are carried on all over the world. Dr. Daniel L. Cadet from Paris, who provided the key-note at the symposium, spoke on the cyclonic waves on the Tropical belt, trade winds, and the need for accurate data to be supplied to the regions hit by cyclones and floods. 'It is only now that we are beginning to understand what is going on. In Europe they call it 'monsoon' when it rains perpetually,' the professor said. 'As yet we do not know accurately about the data collected and how it is transferred adequately to the areas hit by the cyclonic storms.' The professor said that it was difficult to predict the rainfall, and that France was trying to find out methods to improve the prediction. He showed slides and explained to the audience about the path of the cyclonic waves. Professor M. Innas Ali, President, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, present at the symposium, and presenting the presidential address, said

Inter varsity debate begins today

By DU Correspondent

The inter university debate, to be held for the first time, will begin today (Thursday) at the Dhaka University TSC. Eight universities of the country will participate in the debate jointly organised by the Dhaka University Debating Society and Bangladesh Debate Federation under the auspices of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU).

It was announced by DUCSU Cultural Secretary Niamat Iahi at a press conference held at the TSC yesterday (Wednesday).

The universities participating in the three-day debate are Dhaka University, Chittagong University, Mymensingh Agriculture University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Rajshahi University, Jahangirnagar University, Khulna University, and Sylhet Shahjalal Science and Technological University.

52 JU teachers demand Shahriar's reinstatement

Fifty-two teachers of the Jahangirnagar University Wednesday asked the government to immediately reinstate Shahriar Kabir, the Executive Editor of Bichitra, who was terminated recently, reports UNB.

In a joint statement, the JU teachers also expressed their solidarity with the demand of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) who termed Kabir's termination illegal and demanded his reinstatement.

They demanded a neutral chairman of the management board and reconstituting it for smooth running of Dainik Bangla and Weekly Bichitra. Nine heads of department, three deans and two directors of institutes of the JU signed the statement.

Customs seizes 1,308 pieces of Indian sarees

Customs authorities yesterday seized 1,308 pieces of smuggled sarees worth about Tk 6.3 lakh from different godowns at Bangabazar area, reports UNB.

Acting on tip, customs officials along with BDR and police raided three unclaimed godowns at the Bazar and seized the Indian sarees at about 7.30 am.

Officials said they would launch more drives in the capital to seize the contraband items.



Abdus Samad Azad addressing a public meeting organised by Dhaka city Awami League at the Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday. — Star photo

C'wealth to fund expansion of fruit cultivation in Asia

The Commonwealth is expected to fund the expansion of fruit cultivation, preservation and marketing in Asian countries including Bangladesh. Dr. Peter de Groot of Commonwealth Science Council said in Dhaka yesterday.

Talking to BSS at the end of deliberations of a regional workshop on the utilisation of underexploited fruits and nuts in Asia, on the second yesterday Dr. Peter said that the CSC was trying to find some funding from the Commonwealth Secretariat for implementing a set of pilot projects and plans for regional strategy to increase fruit cultivation and marketing.

There is a wide scope for increasing fruit cultivation in most Asian countries to meet up their nutritional deficiency, increase income and improve environmental situation, Dr. Peter said.

The Director of International Centre for Under-Utilised Crops, (ICRC), UK, Dr.

Nazmul Haq, summing up the deliberations at the technical sessions said his organisation would provide technical support to improve the production of fruits and nuts in Asian countries. He said all fruits cultivated in most Asian countries were under utilised and there was a wide prospect to increase their production for meeting home consumption and exports abroad through processing.

Dr Nazmul Haq said that the agricultural scientists could play an important role in increasing fruits cultivation at the national as well as regional level. In this connection he suggested that each government in the Asian countries should take up development strategies and programmes for the improvement of fruit cultivation on a priority basis.

Top level scientists and policy makers from India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the UK and the host Bang-

ladesh are participating in the workshop.

Yesterday technical sessions were presided over by B Honess of the UK and Dr. DS Rathore of India.

The country-papers on the problems and prospect of fruit cultivation were presented at the technical session.

Dr. A Hossain of BARI and SNH Arunzgeb of BARC presented two papers on technical and policy aspects for the expansion of fruit cultivation in Bangladesh. Rezaul Karim and Mustafizur Rahman of Dhaka University also presented a separate paper on homestead fruit cultivation: Some Socio-Economic Results from Bangladesh.

Today at the concluding day, the participants at the workshop would chalk out plans for regional strategy and adopt some pilot projects for implementation at the cooperation of the Commonwealth Science Council and International Centre for Unexploited Crops, UK.

FBCCI, FPCCI joint trade body soon

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) will soon set up a joint trade and economic committee, reports UNB.

In an agreement signed here yesterday, chambers of both countries decided to regularly exchange market information about the economic development of their countries.

They will also seek to open up further possibilities for increased exchange of trade between the two countries with particular emphasis on the expansion of economic co-operation between the enterprises and organisations concerned.

The agreement further stipulated that each chamber will assist the other in organising trade exhibitions, international fairs, information bureaus, symposia, conferences or similar events.

President of FBCCI Mahabur Rahman and President of FPCCI signed the agreement on behalf of their respective federations.

Tk 7 cr project to protect Munshiganj

A six hundred feet protection embankment to check river erosion at a cost of Taka seven crore will be constructed soon at Tongbari and Lohajang thana under Munshiganj district, reports BSS.

This was stated by Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-Ul-Haq while he was visiting the Padma river erosion area of Munshiganj district here yesterday.

Food Minister M Shamsul Islam and State Minister Haroon-al-Rashid and Hamidullah MP were present on the occasion.

Majid was informed that lakhs of people suffer and twenty thousand acres of cultivable land goes under water due to flood every year. Fifteen thousand and half acres of land would be made cultivable round the year with the completion of construction work of the proposed embankment.

The Flood Control Minister said the present democratic government had several programmes for immediate implementation for protection of river erosion and flood control.

Later, the Minister addressed a public gathering at Dighirpar.

Reception to Hasan Abed

Global Human Resources Development Foundation (GHRDF), a non-govt voluntary organisation accorded a reception in honour of Fazel Hasan Abed, Executive Director, BRAC at Hotel Sonargaon Tuesday, on the occasion of BRAC being the recipient of the Maurice Pate Award of UNICEF in New York in June last, says a press release.

The speakers praised the activities of BRAC and appreciated UNICEF for awarding and recognising the positive contribution of this NGO in Bangladesh.

Water Development Board takes Tk 793.22 cr projects

Bangladesh Water Development Board has completed 15 projects in the last financial year while another 10 projects were nearing completion, reports BSS.

The rate of fund utilisation in the year stood at about 81 per cent which marked an improvement over the previous year.

This was stated by M A Razzaque, Chairman, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) at a review meeting held here Wednesday with Asafuddowla, Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control

in the chair. The BWDB Chairman said 52 projects-28 investment project and 24 technical assistance projects—have been included in the annual development programme of the current financial year which is bigger than that of the previous year.

A total of Taka 793.22 crore has been allocated for implementation of these projects including project assistance of Taka 535.00 crore.

He expressed the hope that out of these, 21 projects are

expected to be completed this year. The River Research Institute, Madhumati-Nabaganga project; IDA-aided small scheme, IDA and IFAD aided small scale flood control and small irrigation project, ADB aided small scale irrigation sector project and Narayanganj-Narsingdi irrigation project, are among the projects earmarked for completion during this year.

Razzaque said steps were being taken for taking up the programme of dredging of off-take of Arial Kha, Gorai, Surma and old Brahmaputra for facilitating town protection work. Steps have also been taken for timely completion of necessary preparatory work for this year's programme. The remaining preparatory works like work authorisation, design preparation, tender invitation and work order are scheduled to be completed by October.

Irrigation Secretary M Asafuddowla instructed BWDB officials to work with greater efficiency, honesty and dedication and without fear or favour to achieve this year's programme.

HERE and THERE

Muktijuddher Chetana Committee

Muktijuddher Chetana Bastabayan Committee leaders Wednesday in a statement alleged that the murders of two youth on July 18 in Motijheel were committed by terrorists of Jamaat-Shibir and Jubo Command. Committee City Convener Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya Btr Bikram and Member Secretary Aminul Haq Nantu in their statement said the terrorists repeatedly attacked the rally of the Mtrml Committee that day and at one stage they murdered two youth in Motijheel in cool head. The leaders demanding punishment to the terrorists said that otherwise people themselves would reply.

Khilgaon Samajkalyan Sangsad

A week-long tree plantation programme and construction work of a 90-feet long and 12-feet wide road by Khilgaon Kirta O Samajkalyan Sangsad ended recently. The sangsad has planted trees at various places of Khilgaon. The conclusion of the programmes was followed by a visit of Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas. The programmes were completed under the leadership of SM Farid Uddin Tarun.

Biplobi Jote

Leaders of the Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote at a meeting Wednesday demanded withdrawal of the false cases filed by Jamaat and Shibir against the leaders and workers of different progressive political parties. They also condemned police action on the leaders and workers.

Gana Azadi League

Gana Azadi League President Alhaj Abdus Samad and Joint General Secretary Wednesday resented the government decision in appointing the Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University by violating the Ordinance.

Bangabandhu Society

The Bangabandhu Society on Monday formed a 21-member steering committee to observe the 17th death anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Members of the committee are: Poet Sofia Kamal, Justice K M Sobhan, Dr Abdul Wazed Mia, Razia Matin Chowdhury, Advocate Gazul Haq, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Golam Akbar Chowdhury, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu and others.

18th ICTVTR meet in city July 26

The eighteenth meeting of the Board of Directors of Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will be held in Dhaka from July 26 to July 29, says a press release. Twelve Member States of the OIC—Bangladesh, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Oman and UAE, the representative of the General Secretariat of the OIC and Director General of the ICTVTR who are members of the Board are expected to participate in the meeting.

The opening session of the meeting will be held on July 26 at 10am at Hotel Sonargaon. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for Labour & Manpower, will attend as chief guest at the opening session. Besides the members of the Board of Directors, the heads of the missions of all the OIC countries stationed in Dhaka are expected to attend the opening session.



A procession of Bangladesh Chhatra Maitri on the campus yesterday demanding exemplary punishment to the person involved in the humiliation of the National Flag in Kushtia. — Star photo

Weather

Day temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent Light or moderate rain or shower is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong, Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday). Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country. The Met office forecasts rainfall-activities are likely to decrease within two days. The country yesterday (Wednesday) experienced rainfall at a few places. The rainfall recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm was: in Chittagong and Tangail 17 mm each, at Sylhet 13 mm, Kutubdia 12 mm, Sitakunda 5 mm, Khepupara and Cox's Bazar 4 mm each and Fenk 1 mm. The maximum temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was reported from Bogra yesterday and the minimum of 23.5 degree was reported from Faridpur. The sun sets today at 6.47 pm and rises at 5.24 am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius	Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	
Dhaka	31.5	25.5	83
Chittagong	30.4	25.2	95
Rajshahi	32.8	25.5	75
Khulna	31.0	24.4	82
Cox's Bazar	31.0	26.0	86
Sylhet	30.0	25.5	87
Dinajpur	33.0	25.0	89
Barisal	30.5	24.6	85
Bogra	33.5	27.7	85

BPC Movement Council

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation United Movement Council Wednesday held a meeting to protest the government decision to divest different projects of the corporation. The leaders of the Movement Council at the meeting resented the decision and demanded withdrawal of the government decision.

JSD (Rab)

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab) Wednesday at a meeting passed resolution saying that the party would continue its movement to establish participatory democracy in the country and to set up an upper chamber in the parliament. The meeting was presided over by Mohammad Shahjahan. A S M Abdur Rab spoke at the meeting among others. Rab said the present government had introduced a politics of violence in the name of democracy and urged the people to unite in building a real democracy in the country.

Logo and text for BTV (Bangladesh Television) with the word 'Thursday' written below.

Advertisement for Shahjalal University of Science and Technology. It includes the university logo, name in Bengali, contact information (Sylhet-0100, Bangladesh), and details about a program of 'Distant Education' (দূরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি). It lists dates, fees, and contact details for the admission department.