

Dhaka Day by Day

A Case for Newspapers

by Parveen Anam

It is no coincidence, that during the coming holiday, the entire country goes for vacation—literally. We are probably one of the very few countries, where we all go on holiday at the same time, preferably to the same place. Holiday spots are limited in this country of ours. But surely, we have nothing against the entire nation simultaneously going on holidays. It's only when the newspapers join the bandwagon that we raise a feeble protest. If the government declared a five-day holiday, the 'citizen declared holiday' stretches to ten days. Fascinating, how the number increases.



Holidays are fun time for all. But when the newspapers decide to join in, our problems begin. We the ordinary sort, have nothing against the newspapers going on holidays. But few, if any, civilized countries take the liberty of keeping newspaper offices closed for days on end. It's not that the world has stopped functioning although the arrogance of the average Bangladeshi perhaps induces him to think, the entire world is on a holiday. The guardian angels of the dailies also do not, it seems, have different opinions.

With the setting of the holidays, of which we have plenty, the newsmen wear a sorry look. What about keeping the news conscious citizen abreast with happenings in other parts of the world? It's the nonchalant attitude of everyone concerned that leaves one puzzled. The man responsible for the publication of a newspaper, always does a thorough job of severing the ties,

and we, who claim rather elegantly to belong to the comity of civilized nations, go on an eternal holiday. Some will recall that sometime in the past the newspaper holiday was very limited.

Why we cannot have a bridged version, at least, of some dailies, to keep us in touch with developments all over the world is something beyond the understanding of the common mortal. Even if Bangladesh is shut, the universe is not. It might be useful at times, to remember that the common man is sorely missing his morning paper. We can always have staff in the newspaper offices from different communities, who need not all go on holidays (religious ones, at least) at the same time.

Do we all have to go away to our village homes on the same day? Great holiday spots, these village homes are. Perhaps the Parjatan should look into them as prospective vacation retreats? Meanwhile, we would be quite happy, if the newspapers look into the affairs of the ordinary man, and reach some sort of consensus, to provide the poor news-tarved being with some sort of a daily. On holidays to be exact.

The television and the radio are of course always there, to catch up on the news, but the PDB somehow makes sure that the 'load shedding' manages to make, listening to the news, elusive, at best. So all told, we have a difficult existence. With the newspapers contributing their humble best, one shudders to think what their arrogant best would be like.

Janaza of Wazed Chowdhury held

The namaz-e-Janaza of Mohammad Wazed Chowdhury, MP, was held at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad (Jahan) Saturday morning, reports BSS.

Chowdhury, who won the election on Awami League ticket from Rajbari, died at PG Hospital here Friday night. He was 67.

Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Himesun Khan Panni, LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar, other ministers and members of parliament attended the Janaza.

The Janaza of Chowdhury, who was a member of Awami League central working committee and president of Rajbari district unit of the party was also attended by acting party chief and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, other party leaders and MPs and a large number of party workers.

Biswas, Khaleda shocked

UNB adds: President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed their deep shock at the death of the Member of the Jatiya Sangsad Mohammad Abdul Wazed Choudhury of Awami League.

In a condolence message, the President said that late Chowdhury sacrificed his life for the well-being of the people.

In another condolence message, the Prime Minister said that in the death of Mohammad Abdul Wazed Choudhury, the country lost a veteran freedom fighter and parliamentarian.



Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a workshop in the city yesterday. —PID photo

Tk 50 cr plan to expand education in 69 thanas

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday said the government had started a Taka 50 crore Co-ordinated non-formal education expansion programme in 69 thanas of the country for spreading education, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a week-long workshop on 'Appeal Training Methodology for the Literacy Personnel: Resources Development and Training Procedures in Bangladesh' in the auditorium of Bangladesh Bureau of Educational, Information and Statistics (BANBEIS), the Minister said the project would be completed in three years time.

President, Executive Committee of Swanirvar Bangladesh, the function was addressed, by Education Secretary Shaiful Alam. UNDP Representative Winston Temple, Dr M N Huq, Advisor, University Grants Commission and S B Barua, Director, Swanirvar Mass Education Programme.

Sircar said under the project Non-formal Education, Adult Education and Life-long Education system would be started. He sought cooperation of all, particularly the donor agencies, to supplement the project through financial help to make it a success.

The Education Minister recalled with gratitude the contribution of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman to the spread of education and said he had started mass education programme as a national movement but it was abandoned by

the autocratic regime. He said through sincere efforts honesty and integrity, the government programme could become successful. 'Outmost honesty and high integrity of character are essential for the success of the programme,' he said.

Referring to the present government's avowed policy of Education for All by 2000 AD, Sircar said all have to cooperate to make it a success. He said the present government has successfully held five examinations since it came to power and expressed his firm belief that scission jam in the educational institutions would be removed within next two years.

The workshop has been jointly organised by Education Ministry, UNESCO, Bangkok and Swanirvar Bangladesh, an NGO.

Render sincere service to sick, Biswas to nurses

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon the nurses to render their sincere services to the sick and enhance the dignity of their profession, reports BSS.

He said that the dedicated services of the nurses were essential for the improvement of medicare facilities of the people.

The President was exchanging views with a 25-member delegation of the Diploma Nurses Association when he called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

He said that the present government had undertaken integrated health programme to meet one of the essential needs of the commonman.

He hoped that the efforts of the government should be supplemented with the services of the nurses community to make the health programme a success.

President Biswas underlined the importance of united endeavours of all to give the hard-earned democracy an institutional shape.

The President assured the delegation that he would look into their problems.

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Happy Birthday



Rupam From: Nana, Nanu, Abbu, Ammu, Ammi, Mama, Rumki

Happy Birthday



Farah Huq Abba-Ifti-Amma



Abdus Samad Azad addressing a rally organised by Joy Bangla Sanskritik Oikya Jote in the city yesterday. —Star photo

What's on today . . .

PDF protest rally
The city unit of the Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) will hold a protest rally protesting the killing of Ratan Sen, today (Sunday) at 5 pm at the Purana Palton Intersection.

Joy Bangla Oikya Jote rally
Joy Bangla Oikya Jote will hold a protest rally today (Sunday) in front of the National Press Club at 10 am. The rally will be held demanding broadcasting of programmes on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other national leaders on Radio and Television.

Ganotantri Party condolence meet
Ganotantri Party will hold a condolence meeting on the death of party central leader Sardar Abdul Latif today (Sunday) at the central office of the party at 5 pm.

Nirmul Committee rally
The Motjheel unit of Nirmul Committee will hold a rally today (Sunday) at 5 pm in Motjheel.

Nagarik Adhikar Parishad meet
An emergency meeting of Bangladesh Nagarik Adhikar Parishad will be held today (Sunday) at 246 New Circular Road, Maghbazar at 5 pm.

Discussion meet on Abu Sayeed Choudhury
Tangail Zila Samity will hold a discussion meeting in observance of the death anniversary of former President Justice Abu Sayeed Choudhury today (Sunday) at the Samity office beginning at 6:30 pm.

. . . and tomorrow

Seminar
Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum will hold a seminar on the occasion of the day the government ratified the UN convention of the rights of children in 1990, tomorrow (Monday) at the United Nations Information Centre at 4 pm.

AL sub-committee meet
The Awami League sub-committee on amending the party constitution and declaration will meet tomorrow (Monday) at the Minto Road residence of the Leader of the Opposition in parliament beginning at 11:30 am.

Muktijoddha Gabeshona Kendra
Muktijoddha Gabeshona Kendra will hold a discussion meeting on 'Freedom struggle and the United States', tomorrow (Monday) at its Motjheel office beginning at 5 pm.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at many places over Khulna division and at a few places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday).

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

The country yesterday (Saturday) experienced little rainfall at places. The maximum rainfall, 36 mm, recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm, was reported from Sitakund.

The maximum temperature of 32.6 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dinajpur yesterday and the minimum of 23.5 degree Celsius was reported from Sylhet, Tangail and Feni.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.41 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5.28 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 Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.0	25.4	92	75
Chittagong	31.0	25.0	75	76
Rajshahi	32.6	25.2	85	79
Khulna	32.2	24.2	79	72
Rangamati	32.5	24.0	92	78
Sylhet	32.0	23.5	98	73
Dinajpur	32.6	25.0	78	81
Berisal	31.6	24.6	95	85

World Breastfeeding Day observed

Role of MPs stressed to steer campaign for breastfeeding

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday underscored the need for involving the people to make the Campaign for Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding a success, reports BSS.

He said the representatives of the people in Parliament should be involved in mobilising the people in this regard.

The Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the 'World Breastfeeding Day' held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Shishu Academy here.

Information Minister Barister Nazmul Huda and Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haque were the special guests at the function.

It was also addressed by Country Director of UNFPA Dr SK Alok, UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh Dr Sarad Sapra, WHO Representative Dr Ana Abeyesundere, President of Bangladesh Paediatric Association Prof M S Akbar, President of Bangladesh Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology Prof T A Chowdhury, Director of Reproductive Health Research Institute Dr Halida H Akhter, Chairman of the Campaign for the Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding (CPPBF) Prof MQ K Talukder and Director of

the Institute of Public Health Nutrition Dr M Jahangir.

Additional Health Secretary A B Siddique, President CPPBF organised the function.

The Health Minister said the community should be integrated in the whole process of campaign for breastfeeding, and private voluntary groups should be involved as government alone could not do the job.

Assuring full government support he suggested to start the campaign without further delay.

Information Minister Barister Nazmul Huda said that the parents should be motivated to ensure the right of the children to their mothers milk. He assured support of the media under his control to continue this motivation work.

Huda said advertisements of breast milk substitutes in radio and television had already been stopped.

Referring to stoppage of advertisements of powder milk he said use of powder milk should not be seen only from the context of others milk substitute. It had some other uses also, he added.

The Information Minister said advertisements of a product could not be stopped without valid reasons as the traders also had a fundamental right to advertise for their business.

Deputy Health Minister Sirajul Haque said some compa-

nies had voluntarily agreed that they would not supply any powder milk in the hospitals. He hoped that other companies would also follow them.

He suggested to give the knowledge of breastfeeding campaign to the health and family planning workers for strengthening the activities of the programme.

UNFPA Country Director Dr SK Alok said family planning should be considered along with breastfeeding.

UNICEF Representative Dr Sarad Sapra assured continued support for breastfeeding campaign.

WHO Representative Dr Ana Abeyesundere said breastfeeding lowers infant morbidity and mortality, reduces incidence of diarrhoea and provides economic benefit to the family.

Prof Talukder said there was no rules and regulations in feeding breastmilk to the babies born in the hospitals. He said though only five per cent babies were born in the hospitals in Bangladesh the feeding practice received from the hospitals by the mothers were spreading throughout the country.

Dr Halida Akhter said at the first step CPPBF would introduce the system of child friendly hospitals in seven hospitals in Dhaka and outside with a view to acquainting the mothers and the hospital staff with the 10 steps of breastfeeding. In the next few years all hospitals and clinics would be turned into child friendly hospitals, she added.

One commits suicide, one electrocuted

A housewife allegedly committed suicide at Sadeq colony, Kalganj, in Karaniganj thana Friday midnight, reports UNB.

The vietnam Mina (30), mother of five children, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison following a shock at the behaviour of her husband Kazi Alauddin.

She was rushed to the Salimullah Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

Another housewife was electrocuted on Friday morning at Subadda in Keraniganj.

The victim Khursheda Begum (40), mother of eight children, came in contact with a live wire while washing clothes at a pond near her house.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah College Hospital.

New Bengali daily launched

A new Bengali daily, the 'Banglabazar Patrika', hit the stands yesterday, reports BSS.

The debut of the newspaper brings yet another addition to an area already galore with dailies.

But the Editor of the daily Matur Rahman Chowdhury promised 'Innovative' journalism and assured the readers of a daily with a 'Difference'.

A function, marking the launching of the daily, was organised at Bahadur Shah Park — the venue itself is somewhat unusual for such occasions. Chowdhury, a wellknown columnist and a correspondent for two decades, said this symbolised the 'difference' that the daily promised to offer to the nation.

Sunday

- 5-00 Opening announcement
- 5-05 A-Guram
- 5-10 Program summary
- 5-15 News in Bangla
- 5-20 Recitation from the Bible
- 6-00 Sports programme
- 6-30 Chena Jana
- 7-05 Tagore songs
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-30 Prabaha
- 9-00 Drama Series: Oshin
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-25 Parliament round up
- 10-35 Olympic high lights
- 11-40 Khabar/The news
- 11-50 Monday's programme summary
- 11-55 Close down