

# Dhaka Day by Day

## 'Janmastami'

by Shankar Bihary Nath

Today is Janmastami, birthday festival of God Krishna. He came to this earth with the message: "Wherever and whenever there is a decline in religious practice, descendant of Bharata (human being) and predominant rise of irreligion at that time I descend myself. And to deliver the pious and annihilate the miscreants as well as reestablish the principle of religion I myself appear, millennium after millennium."

All over the world millions of Hindus celebrate this day with religious fervour and highest mood of festivity. Dhaka city Hindu community has been celebrating the day remarkably bringing out processions from times immemorial.

Celebration of Janmastami covers a three day fasting programme with many other religious rituals and cultural activities. On the day before Janmastami Hindu women prepare cake like *taler pitha*, *mal pua*, *poli* and *koil pitha* for the whole day and night.

"It is big part of festivity to prepare cakes," says Shikha Mitra a 40-year old housewife.

"Once it was really a busy day making cakes of different shapes and taste. When I was young I saw my grandmothers and old relations so busy with preparing cakes. Mainly gayful youngsters who do not usually fast get pleasure eating cakes. Moreover, we play host to relations who visit our homes during this festival. So we take care to prepare quality cakes. And it is a happy competition with my fellow women," Shikha Mitra elaborated.

On Janmastami day, after rituals of worshipping Krishna, flamboyant michhils (processions) are brought out from different parts of the city. In these michhils cheerful youngsters display multifarious events of Krishna's life with unbounded festive mood. Horse-chariots decorated like a temple on which a young boy playing on his flute and accompanied by young girl play the role of Radha-Krishna. On back of an elephant a lone Krishna dressed up like a cowboy reminds you about Krishna's boyhood. Upon a 'thela' among trees there in a cradle a Krishna sits and Shakhish (female mates of Radha) swing it.

Most heart-touching display which draws everybody's attention is a man playing the role of

Bashudev who carries baby Krishna in his lap and crossing the tempestuous river Jamuna.

These colourful displays are followed by processionists who chant Harinam — the main lyric by which Hindus pray to god.

But Sudhir Das, 80, who sells sweets at Dhakeshwari Mandir said that nowadays michhils have lost their old glory.

"It's no more that kind of tremendous michhils which we have enjoyed till 1948. I can not compare those days with the present time. At that time even the Muslims did participate in the michhils and shared pleasure with us. It was a big fair of Old Dhaka. What you are enjoying nowadays is a faded one. During that time Hindus from the then undivided Bengal came to Dhaka to participate in the michhils. And Old Dhaka turned into a real festive city," old Sudhir Das finished recalling broken memories of his boyhood in the Old Dhaka.

Kajal Nath, a member of the newly formed Central Janmastami Festival Committee said: "Yes it is no more that kind of michhils which our old generation enjoyed. But what we bring out today for last three years try to uphold our tradition with modern look. And to encourage our new generation we distribute prizes among the best displays in the michhils," Nath concluded.

Along with these festivities different socio-cultural organisations arrange discussions on religious matter, cultural programme, blood donation programme and distribute clothes among the destitutes, said Nirmla Dey of the committee.

All these festivities followed by Paran or Panna day. On this day cooking of different kinds of curries is another interesting part of the festival. Hindu women prepare nearly 108 types of curries only with vegetables for the Punja of Krishna and after offering them in honour of God Krishna the devotees take prashad and end three-day fasting.

"Oh, please don't forget about Bararjhoon, one of the best curries which all the dwellers of Old Dhaka prepare on this day before breaking the fasting," Nitay Dey of Nawabpur area told the Daily Star with great interest.



A traditional 'Janmastami Michhil' in city

## What's on today . . .

### At La Galerie

A painting exhibition of the Artist Zakia Ahmed begins today (Friday) at La Galerie at Banani. The show will continue till August 30 and will remain open everyday from 9 am to 8 pm.

This will be the 21st presentation of La Galeries' exhibition promoting art and artist in Bangladesh.

### Rajbari Zila Samity meeting

A condolence meeting of the Rajbari Samity (association) in Dhaka will be held at the Shishu Academy in the city today (Friday) at 4.30 pm to mourn the death of Abdul Wazed Chowdhury, an Awami League MP and Moslehuddin Mridha, ex-MCA, both hailed from Rajbari.

### 'Runa Laila Night' at Sheraton

A two-day solo musical soiree by noted singer Runa Laila begins at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the capital today (Friday).

Titled 'Runa Laila Night' the function, arranged by 'Voice,' a socio-cultural organisation, aims at raising funds for the country's distressed artists.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda will inaugurate the function as chief guest.

### Installation ceremony

The installation ceremony of Dhaka-based Shariatpur District Students Welfare Association will be held at the National Press Club auditorium at 4 pm today (Friday).

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousof will attend the function as chief guest.

### Publication ceremony of 'Khoab'

The publication ceremony of 'Khoab', the first novel by Shawqat Choudhury, will take place at the VIP lounge of the Jatiya Press Club in the city today (Friday) at 10 am.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda will attend the function as chief guest while the special guest will be Ojas Kamal Chowdhury.

Literary Editor of the Daily Ittefaq Al-Mujahid and Senior Vice-President of AL Baraka Bank Nastruddin Ahmed will participate in the discussion.

### Press conference

Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal will hold a press conference at the party's central office (23/2, Topkhana Road) in the city today (Friday) at 5 in the afternoon.

Party leaders will speak on the prevailing political situation of the country.

### At Mohammadpur Women's College

A meeting of the people of greater Comilla districts who are now residing at Mohammadpur area in the city, has been convened at the Mohammadpur Women's College at Noorjahan Road today (Friday) at 4 pm.

The meeting will discuss the formation of an association of the people of greater Comilla district.

### Bhati Unnayan Parishad

Bhati Unnayan Parishad will hold a meeting of its executive council at the parishad's head office in the city today (Friday) at 7.30 pm to chalk out next course of action.

### VAN meeting

A general meeting of the Voluntary Assistance for the Needy (VAN) will be held at its office (249/A, South Jatrabari) in the city today (Friday) at 4.30 pm.

### Seminar on campus violence

A seminar on campus violence and terrorism will be held today (Friday) at 4 pm at TSC seminar room.

The programme organised by Bangladesh Chhatra Samity will be addressed among others by Prof Kabir Chowdhury and Pankaj Bhattacharyya.

### Discussion meeting on Mujib

Dhaka City Awami League will hold a discussion meeting on the occasion of the death anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of Awami League office at Bangabanghu Avenue today (Friday) at 4 pm.

Sheikh Hasina will be the chief guest.



Fokirerpul area in the city during yesterday's hartal. —Star photo

## Polytechnic teachers submit memorandum to Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

The teachers of 20 polytechnic institutes in Bangladesh observed a day-long work stoppage Thursday demanding arrest and trial of the terrorists of Khulna and Pabna polytechnic institutes.

Bangladesh Polytechnic Shik-hak Samity central executive committee also submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in this connection.

The work-stoppage programme was held as per the decision of a meeting of Bangladesh Polytechnic Shik-hak Samity on August 6.

The teachers of all the polytechnic institutes held separate rallies throughout the country and also submitted memorandum to the Deputy Commissioners of their respective districts.

## Bye-election for Mymensingh-3 constituency Oct 15

The bye-election for the vacant seat of Mymensingh-3 will be held on October 15, the Election Commission announced yesterday, reports BSS.

The election in a Gazette notification yesterday, announced the schedule for the bye-election. The last date for filing of nomination papers has been fixed on September 19 while the scrutiny will be held the following day.

The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is September 2.

The Election Commission, in another Gazette notification, has appointed the Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh the returning officer to conduct the bye-election. The nabahi officers of Mymensingh Sadar thana and Gourtpur thana have been appointed assistance returning officers for the purpose.

The seat of Mymensingh-3 constituency (Jattya Sangadd-151) has fallen vacant following the death of Nazrul Islam.

## Rab will visit Rangpur tomorrow

JSD leader ASM Abdur Rad will leave for Rangpur on Saturday for addressing a public meeting at town hall maidan, reports UNB.

Party sources said Rab is expected to meet local leaders of his party and discuss the prevailing situation in the country including rising trend of terrorism.

## Take cooperative ventures to utilise resources: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Thursday called for following the peaceful democratic path to attain progress and speedy development of the country, reports BSS.

He said constructive pursuits were the only means by which the nation could earn success and bring stability in all spheres of life.

The President was exchanging views with a ten-member delegation of the South Bengal Development Unity Council, a voluntary organisation, when they called on him at Bangabhaban last morning.

He said the government had given special emphasis in building the country's infrastructures, like roads, rural electrification and education sectors.

President Biswas said the younger generation had to be united in rendering their hard labour in the development efforts of the country.

He underscored the need for expanding selfemployment opportunities so that the unemployment problems could be solved.

He also urged them to utilise the available resources by taking cooperative ventures. The delegation apprised the President of various problems of southern areas and underlined the need for their early solution.

## Dhaka city BNP meet today

A meeting of the office bearers of Dhaka city BNP will be held today (Friday) at 4 pm at the city BNP office at Nawab Yusuf Market here, according to a press release, reports BSS.

Secretary General of BNP, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder will be the chief guest on the occasion while Dhaka City BNP Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali will preside.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, City Mayor Mirza Abbas MP, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka, State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, Dhaka City BNP General Secretary Salahuddin Ahmed MP, and all parliament members of BNP elected from the capital will be present in the meeting.

## Biswas, Khaleda greet Kravchuk

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Thursday greeted President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine on the occasion of the independence day of that country, reports BSS.

In a message President Biswas expressed his confidence that the bilateral relations between the two countries would be developed in the interest of our two peoples.

In another message: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday felicitated Prime Minister V. Focinich of Ukraine on the occasion of its independence day.

In a message the Prime Minister said, she looked forward to further strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation between two friendly countries.

**To Preeti**  
Many Happy Returns  
Faiza & Mum

**Happy Birthday**  
To our dearest  
**Rahat**  
From all your fellow  
horses, black  
and white

## Fresh Notice Inviting Tender

Memo No. SA-NA/489  
Dated: 17-8-92 Eng  
2-5-99 Bang

Due to unavoidable circumstances the tenders invited and received for the undermentioned work vide this office memo No. SA-NA/3069 dated 13.5.92 are hereby cancelled and fresh sealed cover tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No. 29M from special 1st Class contractor/experienced in air conditioning work 1st class E/M Contractors and Proprietary item manufacturers. The tenders will be received in the tender box of the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Division No. I/II/III/IV/V/VI/VII/VIII/PWD Mechanical Workshop Divn./PWD Wood Workshop Divn./Eden Building Divn. Dhaka up to 12 Noon on 7-9-92 and the same will be opened on the receiving date at 12-30 PM in presence of the tenderers/their representative (who may like to remain present). The tender papers can be purchased on cash payment of Taka 775/- (Non-refundable) during office hours from the above mentioned Divn. offices up to 6-9-92 last. In case of experienced 1st Class E/M Contractors, and proprietary items manufacturers prior written permission from the Addl. Chief Engineer (E/M) PWD, Dhaka and the Superintending Engineer, PWD E/M Circle-2, Dhaka respectively shall be required for purchasing tender. No tender papers shall be sold to them. Necessary catalogues (with marking for type, model, country of origin) in support of proposed AC equipment, temperature and humidity recorder, display etc. shall have to be submitted along with the tender. 2% (two per cent) earnest money of the total quoted amount in the tender in the form of BD/CD/SDR/PO of any scheduled bank approved by Bangladesh Bank in favour of the Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Division-V, Dhaka shall have to be furnished along with the tender. Authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sl No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	E. Money	Time Allowed
1.	Providing and Installation of Air-conditioning Machine in the block 'C' of Yourology Deptt. of Lithotripsy machine room 8th floor at IPGM & R Hospital, Dhaka.	Item rate quoted	2% of the total quoted amount	3 (three) months

DFF (G) 15322-17/8  
G - 1033

**Executive Engineer**  
PWD E/M Division-V,  
Dhaka.

## 10-Taka Prize Bonds draw results

The 105th draw of 10-Taka Bangladesh Prize Bonds was held August 15 at the conference room of Deputy Commissioner, Khulna, says a press release.

The following 100 common numbers were drawn from amongst the numbers 000001 to 500000: First prize of Taka 50,000/00 ... 298705; Second prize of Taka 10,000/00 ... 280080.

Four prizes of Taka 1,000/00 each: 103921; 270443; 297811; 444410.  
Four prizes of Taka 500/00 each: 186131; 201617; 369564; 411727.

Ninety prizes of Taka 100/00 each:

011301	089895	196130	341268	410843
012272	090059	196591	341845	411716
012756	092881	199281	345170	419057
018096	094161	199876	347254	424325
026928	114397	203070	356265	425390
032484	118472	231893	361678	430260
036307	124107	251135	366541	430838
041638	125230	260916	371208	431282
042929	133454	268630	375578	453400
050335	140901	284433	384546	453531
050627	145929	295739	384580	455494
051457	162131	302698	386420	458043
062666	167807	309638	399042	468651
065336	170198	325898	399351	476656
069493	171085	330446	402425	485092
081047	173893	332406	402735	494828
084952	186718	335168	406481	497063
085154	194327	339672	409092	498205



Tourists on city road. —Star photo



Friday

### Morning Session

- 8:00 Opening Announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 8:10 News in Bangla
- 8:15 Khaler Jagat
- 8:40 Cartoon Show: Teenage Mutants Ninja Turtle
- 9:10 Tarunnaya
- 9:30 Film Show: The Spectacular World of Guinness Record
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:05 Moner Mukurey
- 11:15 Drama Series: The Girl From Tomorrow
- 11:45 Documentary film: Survivors
- 12:17 Evening session's Programme summary

### Evening Session

- 3:00 Al-Quran
- 3:12 Recitation from the Tripitak
- 3:15 Alor Dishart
- 3:40 Movie of the Week
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:30 Sports programme
- 7:05 Sangeeta
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Musical Programme: Eurotops
- 9:00 Antaranga
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Drama Series: LA Law
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Saturday's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing.

## 823 arrested on various charges

Police arrested 823 people from different parts of the country in last 24 hours and recovered 6 illegal arms and 31 rounds of bullets, reports UNB.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) also nabbed a snatcher Ashraf Ali with a knife when he tried to snatch Tk 1,000 and other valuables from a passerby near Stadium area.

In a drive in different areas of the metropolis during the last 24 hours, the DMP arrested 58 people on various charges.

The charges include toll extortion, theft and kidnapping, said a press release.

## . . . and tomorrow

### Condolence meet on Ratan Sen

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will hold a meeting to mourn the death of Ratan Sen at the party's central office tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon.

Noted politicians and intellectuals of the country will attend the meeting.

### Zia Academy meeting

The first meeting of the executive council of Zia Academy will be held tomorrow (Saturday) at 4.30 pm at 3/6, Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, in the city.

LRGD and Cooperatives Minister and Secretary General of the ruling BNP Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder will attend the meeting as chief guest. The meeting is scheduled to draw a number of major programmes.

### BAF observes Matiu's death anniversary

Bangladesh Air Force observed the death anniversary of Flight Lieutenant Matiu Rahman Bir Srestho with due solemnity Thursday, an ISPR release said, reports BSS.

On the occasion a mahfil-emild was arranged at BAF base Matiu Rahman in Jessore. Prayers were offered for the peace of the departed soul and also for continued peace and prosperity of the country.

### Newspaper office ransacked

A group of unruly processionists Thursday ransacked the office of a local daily 'Dainik Gramer Dak' Kushtia town for allegedly keeping the daily's office open during the hartal period.

The Editor of the daily Mohammad Alamgir told BSS over telephone that a group of processionists numbering 10 to 12 persons attacked the office in the morning.

## Weather

### No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Temporary light or moderate rain or thundershower is likely to occur at many places over Khulna division, at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm Thursday, Met office forecast.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period over the country, it added.

The highest temperature of the country 34 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi Thursday while the lowest 24 degree Celsius was recorded at Ranganamati.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6-27 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5-36 am.

The maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns Thursday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.6	26.8	82	83
Chittagong	30.5	25.2	97	97
Rajshahi	34.0	26.7	79	81
Khulna	31.0	25.5	98	82
Cox's Bazar	28.0	24.8	100	100
Ranganamati	30.5	24.0	85	85
Sylhet	32.5	25.2	89	92
Dinajpur	32.4	25.6	92	86
Barisal	31.6	24.4	98	89