

Dhaka Day by Day

Tea leaves — and Stars

by Parveen Anam

Man has always wanted to know the unknown, explore the myths and conquer the unconquered. The history of the world is ample proof; but it is not the history of the world or the history of man's conquests, that interest us here. It is the unconquered, which interest us. And man, and woman, have not yet been able to conquer that elusive — future. He has explored and delved into the wilderness of his past, but not been able to come up with one concrete idea, of what — tomorrow holds in store for him! And he is intrigued by the unknown. As always. He must know what awaits him on the morrow. Weddings are set for days thought to be lucky. Journeys undertaken (if possible) on days supposed to be safe. etc. etc. Its all a matter of 'luck'. Yet, we are not satisfied. How can we not know, what the week after tomorrow holds for us, when we know when there is going to be a solar eclipse, years from now? So, this mad, mad rush to the astrologer and the palmist, to have our fortune 'told'. We hate the uncertainty, of not knowing; the man poring over the lines in our palms, surely knows more about our future, than we do? The stars must be studied and the future nicely planned. Who better at this job, than the little man, who will swear he knows all about 'IT' for a little sum of money, and sometimes, even without it. And man in his gullibility will believe almost anything, especially, if it is in his favour. Once in a while, it is nice to hear something, which is encouraging. The Bengali,



finds it so difficult to pay a simple compliment. The man who will swear by the authenticity of your future, will adroitly inform you, that your future is brilliant, with that tall, dark and handsome stranger, lurking in the shadows, about to whisk you off to fairy land. And untold riches are there for your asking; we all have our dreams. Not once has it occurred to man, in all his innocence, that the greatest favour done to him by mother nature, is to keep his future a secret from him. But then, there are those, who will tell you your fortune, by studying the tea leaves. You drink a cup of tea, leave some of the tea leaves at the bottom, and lo and behold, your fortune is all there. The intricacies of the future, unfold before the very eyes of the learned man, in the tea cup. Wonderful are the ways of the knowledgeable. It must be awesome, for a mortal, to hold the key to the future of mankind, in the bottom of the tea cup. Somehow, makes you sit up and take notice, of those little leaves. The age old idea, that tea leaves are good for your rose bushes, does not hold good then. You begin to develop a healthy respect for them, because they also apparently hold the future of man in that little cup. Ah well. Astrology is a science, not to be scoffed at, of course. There are some, who will swear by it. But the ordinary sort, would just probably sit back and continue to dream, with the tea leaves, the palm lines and the stars for company.

BSD protests attack on Menon

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) leaders yesterday said that the popular demand for trial of Golam Azam could not be stopped by creating confusion.

BSD held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon to protest the killing of CPB leader Ratan Sen and armed attack on Workers' Party General Secretary Rasheed Khan Menon MP.

The rally, presided over by Golam Mahmud, was addressed, among others, by Abdur Razzak, Mostafa Faruq, Bazul Rashid Feroz and Belal Chowdhury.

Leaders at the rally said that pre-planned attacks have been launched on the progressive leaders and activists to curb the demand for trial of Jamaat chief Golam Azam.

The government was fostering the terrorists to confuse the people's demand, they accused.

'Nationalise educational instt on specific rules'

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Government Secondary Teachers' Association has demanded that the nationalisation of educational institutions be based on specific rules, unlike the ways practised by the fallen autocratic regime.

In a 12-point charter of demands chanted at the eighth biennial national conference yesterday, the association leaders called for withdrawal of the order suspending the first class gazetted status of assistant teachers, filling up of the vacant posts of assistant headmasters by promoting the assistant teachers, establishment of a separate secondary education directorate and other professional facilities.

Held at the Bangladesh Management Development Centre, the conference was addressed by The Daily Star Joint Editor Waheedul Huq as chief guest, president and general secretary of the association.

'Stern action to be taken against corrupt officials'

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia Thursday categorically said that stern action would be taken against the corrupt officials and the employees working under the Ministry of Works if allegations supported by documents and valid papers be submitted to the government, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the national conference and council session of the Bangladesh P W D Diploma Engineers' Association held at the BCIC auditorium here.

'BNP will foil attempt against democracy'

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum yesterday said that the present government was committed to consolidate the hard earned democracy, reports BSS.

She was addressing a student rally at Lalbagh here, organised by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal of wards no. 23 and 24 of Dhaka.

The rally was also addressed by State Minister for Law and Justice Aminul Hoque, President of the Dhaka Mohanagar BNP LL General (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali MP. Vice Presidents of JCD Nazimuddin Alam and Fazul Hoque Milan, Abdul Khair Bhuiyan, Publicity Secretary Nasruddin Ahmed Pintoo and President of Lalbagh thana BNP Mejbuddin Sabu.

While dwelling on the social responsibilities of the affluent community, the Finance Minister called upon them to blend their affluence with mind and go for establishing schools and philanthropic institutions for the welfare of the society and humanity. Without education our development efforts will not reach to the desired goal, he said.

'Population boom to be arrested'

Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday said voluntary organisations and affluent section of the people should come forward to supplement the government endeavour in making the society worthy living for the coming generation, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest at the inaugural session of three-day district co-ordination workshop organised by Jessore district unit of Bangladesh Family Planning Association (BFPA) in Jessore.

Presided over by BFPA Vice-President Tauhidur Rahman the function was also addressed, among others, by M Rawshan Ali MP, Prof Rafiqul Islam MP, Deputy Commissioner, Jessore and Abu Sayeed, General Secretary of the association.

The main objective of the workshop is to promote and strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the government and non-government organisations engaged in family planning activities.

Social Welfare Minister said there was no other way but to arrest the present trend of population boom for the very existence of national entity.

He stressed for curving the rate of illiteracy and creating job opportunities for both un-employed male and female youths of the society.



An art exhibition on environment began at the Shilpakala Academy yesterday. — Star photo

Govt firm to help flourish children's merit

Food Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday called upon all to create a congenial atmosphere for the flourishing of merit of the children, reports BSS.

He said door for the flourishing of merit of the posterity should be kept open for building a prosperous nation.

Islam was speaking at the annual prize giving ceremony of Bikanpur Samajik Sangkritik Sangtha at Shishu Academy here.

The Food Minister said the present government was determined to keep the posterity free from the poisonous influence of alien culture through developing our own culture.

He called upon the guardians and the people connected with cultural activities to utilise the facilities given by the present government.

NGOs asked to come up with dynamic steps

United efforts can help bloom latent talents of blinds: President

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday stressed the need for creation of a conducive atmosphere for enabling the blinds to live a normal life in the country, reports BSS.

He called upon rich and educated sections particularly the social workers, professionals, intellectuals and philanthropists to come forward to join the noble and humanitarian task of removing blindness from the country.

The President was addressing as the chief guest the concluding day function of the international seminar and workshop on eye banking at the BCIC auditorium here.

Sandhani National Eye Donation Society, Bangladesh Eye Care Society and ORBIS International jointly organised the four-day seminar and workshop.

With President of Sandhani National Eye Donation Society Prof Hasna Begum in the chair, the function was also addressed by Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan, Chairman of the Press Institute of Bangladesh, Gazi Shamsur Rahman and eminent eye specialist Prof M Mustafizur Rahman. International experts

John Jake Riquard of ORBIS International, Manoranjan Majumdar of International Eye Bank of Calcutta, India and Dr Harshadrai T Vora of Eye Bank Association of India also addressed the function.

Eminent eye specialists from home and the SAARC countries, among others, were present on the occasion.

President Biswas said co-operation and efforts of all sections of people could easily help blossoming the latent talent of the retarded persons like blinds enabling them to take part in the welfare activities.

He hoped that the opinions and advices of the eminent eye experts of home and abroad would definitely infuse more vigour in the on-going campaign for eye banking.

President Biswas, quoting eye specialists, said that there were now 15 lakh blind people including three lakh for congenital affect in Bangladesh.

'Eye sight can be restored for 75 per cent people through grafting cornea and much progress has already been achieved in this respect,' he said, adding that strengthening of this task initiated a bright prospect in the country.

Stressing coordinated efforts for removing blindness, the President called for feeding the children, a great many of whom become blind due to malnutrition, food, rice, vegetables and fish rich in vitamin A.

He also underscored the need for setting up more eye camps for proper treatment of eyes and cataract operation especially in the rural areas where eye patients already started getting benefit out of this noble service.

The President said the government was implementing various programmes to ensure health for the people by the year 2000 and sought all-out cooperation of the people towards these programmes.

He also asked the non-government and voluntary organisations to take dynamic steps side by side government programmes in this sector and called upon the physicians to render their services to this humanitarian task.

President Biswas said the success of this programme would mostly depend on the sincere efforts and services of the physicians and hoped that they would do their best as they did in the past in removing blindness from the country.

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A M Zahiruddin Khan, a patron of the Sandhani National Eye Donation Society, said the people were now moving towards cooperation from the situation of confrontation and this trend could be effectively used in the removal of blindness.

'Blindness is an ordeal, not a perchance,' he said and hoped that the interactions and deliberations of the workshop would come up with some solutions to the problem.

The Planning Minister, in his speech, announced posthumous donation of his two eyes to Sandhani.

John Jake Riquard stressed the need for growth of eye ranks in Bangladesh and other SAARC countries with donation of eyes from others through a coordinated motivational drive.

Rivers register sharp rise

The Brahmaputra and the Ganges are rising steadily at all points due to active monsoon over the country and the adjoining areas, a bulletin of the Water Development Board said here Friday, reports BSS.

Other rivers in the Brahmaputra and the Ganges basins and the rivers in the Meghna and the south eastern hill basins marked rise and fall during the last 24 hours ending 6 am Friday, the bulletin said.

The Brahmaputra registered further rise by 11.42 inches (29 cm) at Noonkhawa, 48.27 inches (21 cm) at Chilmari, 5.90 inches (15 cm) at Bahadurabad, 4.33 inches (11 cm) at Serajganj and 7.09 inches (18 cm) at Aricha.

The Teesta marked fall by 6.30 inches (16 cm) at Dalia and 8.66 inches (22 cm) at Kauria.

The Dharla registered rise by 7.08 inches (18 cm) at Kurigram. The old Brahmaputra also marked rise by 3.94

inches (10 cm) each at Jamalpur and Mymensingh.

The Buriganga at Dhaka recorded rise by 5.90 inches (15 cm), the Kalganga at Taraghat by 4.33 inches (11 cm) and a slight rise of the Turag at Tongi while the Lakiya at Narayanjan marked fall by 2.36 inches (6 cm).

The Ganges recorded further rise by 1.15 ft (35 cm) at Pankha, 10.23 inches (26 cm) at Rajshahi, 7.87 inches (20 cm) at Harding Bridge, 4.33 inches (11 cm) at Goolando and 10.63 inches (27 cm) at Bhayakul.

The Mahananda at Chapalnawabganj and the Jamuna at Naogaon each marked rise by 11.42 inches (29 cm) while the Karatoa at Panchagarh registered fall by 1.02 ft (31 cm).

The Goral at Goral railway bridge recorded rise by 9.45 inches (24 cm) and the Kumar at Faridpur by 1.57 inches (4 cm).

The Surma recorded fur-

ther rise by 2.26 ft (69 cm) at Sylhet and slight rise at Sunamganj.

The Kushiara also recorded rise by 1.77 ft (54 cm) at Amalsid and 1.64 ft (50 cm) at Shoala.

The Manu marked fall by 1.57 ft (48 cm) at Manu railway bridge and 7.87 inches (20 cm) at Moulvi Bazar.

The Someswari at Durgapur also marked fall by 5.51 inches (14 cm), the Gumti at Comilla by 4.33 inches (11 cm) and slight fall of the Khowai at Habiganj while the Meghna at Bhairab Bazar registered slight rise.

The Muhuri at Parshuram, the Haida at Narayan Hat marked slight rise. The Sangu at Bandarban recorded fall by 4.72 inches (12 cm), the Haida at Parichpukuria by 8.27 inches (21 cm) while the Matamuhuri at Lama registered rise by 3.54 inches (9 cm).

All the rivers in all the basins are flowing below danger level, the bulletin said.

AL leader dies

Former Awami League MP Abdul Jabbar died of heart attack yesterday at his village home in Kulara of Moulvibazar district. He was 51, reports UNB.

Jabbar was the General Secretary of Kulara thana Awami League and a central committee member of Bangladesh Krishak League.

Party sources said, the namaj-e-janaza for the deceased will be held at Kulara today (Saturday) at 11 am.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of the party leader who was elected MP in 1986 from a Moulvibazar constituency.

In a message of condolence, she said, in his death the country lost a freedom fighter, an eminent politician and social worker.

Swedish trade union leaders visit newspaper offices

Director of Asia Project of the Sweden Trade Union Development Council Ingover Johanson and Treasurer of the Sweden National Trade Union Organisation Ericson Friday visited various newspaper offices in the city and held separate meetings with the press workers.

Secretary General of Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Press Samik Federation Bazul Rahman Milan accompanied the two trade union leaders of Sweden.

They also attended a meeting of the Joint Project Committee of Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Press Samik Federation and Bangladesh Press and Packaging Karmachari Federation at the Ittefaq Bhaban.

9,000 private pry schools to be rehabilitated

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said Friday that BNP government gave topmost priority to education, particularly primary and secondary level studies, reports BSS.

He said this year's budget have highest allocation for education and it would be further increased in future.

The Finance Minister was addressing as chief guest the annual prize giving ceremony of Oulshan Model High School here.

Presided over by Vice President of the school committee Alhaj M A Hannan, the function was addressed by local MP Md Qamrul Islam, school headmaster, a teacher, and representative of the SSC passed students of the school.

Saifur Rahman said 9,000 private primary schools and 300 private secondary schools would be rehabilitated and provided with adequate para-

phernalia for worthy pursuit of knowledge commensurating with the requirement of mental and physical development of the children.

He said Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia gave special emphasis on materialising the programme and according to her direction the programme will be materialised before the targeted three years time. Besides every thana will be provided with a nationalized high school, he added.

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He stressed for curving the rate of illiteracy and creating job opportunities for both un-employed male and female youths of the society.

Formation of SAARC eye bank federation suggested

A three-day international seminar on 'Eye Banking' ended here yesterday with a call for setting up a federation of eye bank associations of SAARC countries to consolidate the eye donation movement in the region, reports UNB.

The seminar, jointly organised by Sandhani National Eye Donation Society (SNEDS), Bangladesh Eye Care Society and ORBIS International, also called for carrying forward the campaign for posthumous eye donation to fight blindness.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, addressing the concluding session of the seminar at BCIC auditorium this morning, called upon all, including social workers, professionals and intellectuals, to come forward in making the movement a success.

The government has been implementing a massive programme to improve the health scenario in the country by the year 2000, he said. Planning Minister A. M

Ctg Mayor elected WCM Vice President

CHITTAGONG, Aug 28: Mayor of Chittagong City Mir Mohammad Nasruddin has been elected Vice-President of the Interim Board of Directors of the World Conference of Mayors (WCM), reports BSS.

According to a message received here from the WCM, Mir Nasruddin has gained the majority of the endorsement of nominations to select the city to have the membership of Directors of WCM's organisation.

Mayor visits city roads to see development works

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas, MP, yesterday visited roads in Goran, Shyamoli Ring Road, Bijoy Swarnt, Mirpur-14 and Bhasantek in the city to see the progress of development works undertaken by the corporation in the areas, reports BSS.

Weather

Temperature may rise

Temporary light or moderate rain or shower 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 (Saturday).

Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius, the Met office forecasts.

Major rainfalls recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm yesterday (Friday) were: 13 mm at Tangail, 9 mm at Dhaka 8 mm at Sandip and 5 mm at Feni.

The maximum temperature of 33.8 degree Celsius was reported from Rangamat yesterday and the minimum of 23.2 degree was reported from Sylhet.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.19 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5.39 am.

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

Table with columns: Cities/Towns, Temperature in degree Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (9 am, 6 pm)

Happy Birthday To Our Son REFAYAT With Lots Of Love FROM: MAA, BABA

বাংলা একাডেমী ঢাকা। গবেষণা বৃত্তির জন্য দরখাস্ত আহবান