

## Dhaka Day by Day

### The Lure of the Snake Charmer

by Parveen Anam

They have figured in songs and love stories. No film of yester years was complete without the snake charmer, called in to revive the heroine or the hero, and restore them back to life, to the haunting tune of the snake charmer, and the snake winding its way in and out of the bushes, to do the needful.

Wonders of medical science was defeated, as the charmed flute summoned the snake,

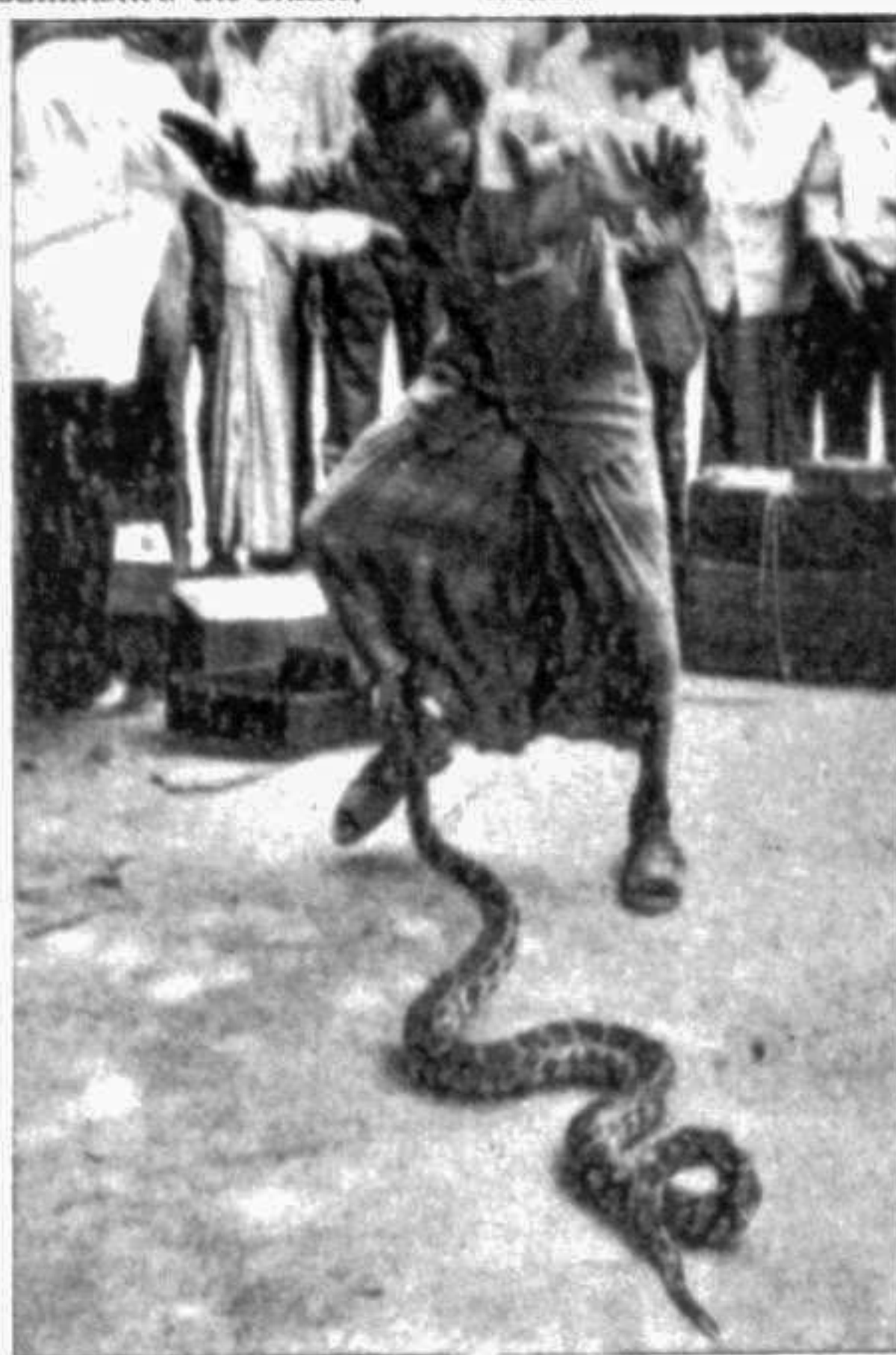
which then summoned the poison and revived the mortal human to his original self, i.e. jumping about and singing in the case of the movies or falling into the arms of his lost love.

So far so good; but what does not fail to surprise us today is the belief with which the snake charmer is utilised to put everything right.

A case of snake bite in the rural areas certainly warrants an SOS to the eternal charmer to dilute the poison with his charms. But in the urban areas too, we are not deprived of these charms, as is evident, from the occasional snake charmer, roaming the streets, with his flute and bag of poisonous snakes.

It gives one hours of enjoyment, to just stand around and watch the little 'snake-man' call his faithful out of the bag or basket, and set them to work.

It is fascinating, as the snakes wriggle out of their abode and dance away to the lilting tune of the charmer. It is one of the very few attractions left over from yesteryears.



A snake charmer in action.

The snakes come from the shrubbery of the surrounding country side, the charmer will inform you they are deadly. In fact, many a charmer will nonchalantly tell you that his father or grandfather was a victim of the very snake he had taken for a pet. You wonder immediately what happened to his curative powers, which he so adroitly uses with his customers.

Yet better judgement prevails and you keep your mouth shut, for a change. Ask no questions and you will be told no lies — that is the order of the day. The snakes thrive on a diet of milk and bananas, you are informed. And usually under the bed of the master. He only puts them in his basket, when he goes about his business.

If he is not using them to cure the victims of snake-bite, he is using them to dance to the utter delight of the adoring crowd, which is bound to gather around, as soon as the first haunting tune of the 'bin' come floating through. Young and old alike love to gather and watch fascinated, as the charmer makes the snakes move gracefully to the tunes played on the flute.

There is a certain trepidation, understandably, as the snakes move around, but the faith in the control of the man over his snakes is total, and many a soul has gone away, humming the tune to himself, after a performance from the ever fascinating snake charmer.



DU unit of JSD (Inu) backed Bangladesh Chhatra League brought out a procession in the city yesterday following its central council. —Star photo

### Food for work programme

## 70,000 tons of wheat sanctioned

Some 70,000 tons of wheat worth about Tk 56 crore has been sanctioned for food for work programme in the coming dry season, reports UNB.

The Relief Ministry has given the sanction from its own resources for implementing projects under the programme beginning in December, official sources said.

Decision on the programme was taken at the fifth meeting 'on Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Relief at Sangsadhaban yesterday.

Relief and repatriation of the Rohingya refugees were also discussed in the meeting, presided over by State Minister for Relief Luthfor Rahman Khan.

The meeting also approved draft policy for distribution of CI sheet (metal roof material) by the Relief Ministry for rehabilitating victims of natural disasters.

According to the decision, a maximum of two bundles of CI

sheet will be allocated for each affected family for building their houses while a maximum five bundles for each affected school, madrasa and orphanage.

The meeting was attended by its members AKM Sahidul Islam, ATM Alamgir, Mohammod Niamatullah, Mohammad Akhter Hamid Siddiqui, Mohammad Azizur Rahman, Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, Kazi Shamur Rahman and Mohammad Harun Rashid Mollah.

Relief Secretary MA Hakim and high officials of the ministry and concerned directorate were present.

## Minister unhappy over ICB's performance

State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman yesterday visited the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) Head Office in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

He reviewed the performance of the ICB and expressed dissatisfaction, according to an official source.

He directed the ICB authority to reactivate the organisation and help create congenial investment climate. He said, there has to be a constructive and trustworthy relationship

between the clients and financial institutions.

Rahman asked the ICB authority to make best use of depositors' money. He said appropriate investment and proper appraisal are the important factors in making a financial institution successful.

ICB at present has 201 ongoing projects and has an outstanding loan of Tk 232 crore.

The State Minister directed the ICB authority to gear up their recovery programme.

### PM greets Carlos

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia greeted Carlos Salinas De Gortari, President of the United Mexican States, on the occasion of his independence day, reports BSS.

In a message to Carlos, Begum Zia wished him good health, happiness and long life and the people of Mexico peace, progress and prosperity.

### Saleheen's death condoled

The Executive Committee of Association for Policy Research (APR) yesterday expressed its profound shock at the death of one of the most outstanding bankers of the country and distinguished leader in the field of social service, Mushiq-us-Saleheen, reports BSS.

In a condolence meeting the association observed that Saleheen was a legend in the banking sector and had set a unique example of dedication, honesty, high professionalism. With his death the country has lost a great son of the soil and the departure will create a big vacuum in the banking arena. It remarked.

The APR expressed deepest sympathy for the member of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

### Non- govt head teachers meet Eunus

The head teachers of 14 non-government high schools of Dhaka city had a meeting with the State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

The head teachers apprised of the professional problems being faced by them in imparting education to the students and put forward some recommendations to solve these problems.

The State Minister exchanged views with the teachers and urged them to put in their best efforts for maintaining higher standard of teaching in spite of professional hazards.

He also advised them to maintain academic atmosphere in the campus in the greater national interests.

### BTV Wednesday

5.00 Opening announcement  
Al Quran  
Programme summary  
5.10 News in Bangla  
5.20 Recitation from the Gesta  
5.25 Sports programme  
6.30 Moder Garab Moder Asha  
7.05 Hija Tamal  
8.00 News in Bangla  
8.30 Nritter Tale Tale  
9.00 McGyver  
10.00 News in English  
10.30 Boi Lekhak O Pahak  
11.30 Khabar (The News)  
11.40 hursdays programme summary  
11.45 Closing.

### Weather

#### Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Temporary light rain or shower may occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and the regions of Dhaka, Tangail, Mymensingh.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry else where over the country during the next 24 hours starting from 6 am today (Wednesday).

According to the Met office forecast, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The maximum temperature of 35.1 degree Celsius was reported from Jessore yesterday (Tuesday) and the minimum of 21.4 degree was reported from Sylhet.

Sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6.01 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.46 am.

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

Dhaka	33.8	26.0	83	64
Chittagong	32.4	26.1	78	82
Rajshahi	33.7	25.3	75	71
Khulna	34.5	26.2	77	70
Cox'sbazar	32.0	25.5	71	79
Sylhet	30.6	21.4	85	85
Dinajpur	32.4	25.0	78	78
Comilla	33.5	24.0	98	81



Jahanara Imam addressing a rally of Nirmul Body women's wing in front of National Press Club yesterday. Story on page 1 —Star photo

### Jahanara Imam says

## Vested quarters out to disrupt social discipline

The united efforts of the students strengthened by moral courage and the spirit of Liberation War can only root out terrorism and anti liberation forces from the society.

This was stated by the speakers at the inaugural function of the two-day council of Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-B) yesterday at the TSC of Dhaka University in the city reports BSS.

Inaugurating the council Begum Jahanara Imam said, the vested quarters are now active in disrupting social discipline with a plan to curb the freedom and sovereignty of the country. The active efforts of the students can only stop the unholy aggression of the anti-liberation forces, she said.

She said, the country was facing various socio-economic crisis but the issue of stemming the anti-liberation forces demanded the topmost attention because if they were allowed to go ahead with their unholy designs the sovereignty of the country would soon be extinct, she said.

She called upon the students to put in their best efforts to acquire institutional education along with moral values for the betterment of individual life and nation.

Addressing the function, the General Secretary of Jatiya

Samajtantric Dal (JSD -Inu) Hasanul Haq Inu said under no norm of democracy, anti-liberation forces could be allowed to conduct their activities.

Referring to the deterioration of law and order situation, he said the government could not avoid the responsibility for rapid spreading of terrorism in all spheres of the society.

Inu said introduction of the Anti-Terrorism Ordinance would not bring any result unless there was a political consensus. JSD Joint Secretary Sharif Nurul Ambia said, not

the arms, but the moral courage could only eliminate the anti-social and anti-liberation forces from the country. He called upon the student organisations and the political parties to formulate specific political programmes in this regard. Presided over by the President of BCL (M-B) Mokheer Rahman the function was addressed, among others, by JSD leaders Kazi Aref Ahmed, Abdul Kader, Ruhul Kuddus Babu and BCL General Secretary Saidur Rahman.

INDIA PAKISTAN BANGLADESH CONFERENCES  
CEYLON CONFERENCES  
NOTICE TO SHIPPERS  
UK & EIRE LANDSIDE CHARGES

WITH THE USE OF SOUTHAMPTON AS AN ADDITIONAL U.K. PORT OF CALL MEMBER LINES HAVE CONDUCTED A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SERVICING OF THEIR LANDSIDE OPERATIONS AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE FOLLOWING ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE NECESSARY TO THEIR PCL HAULAGE TARIFF EFFECTIVE FROM VESSELS SCHEDULED TO DEPART OR ARRIVE AT U.K. PORTS ON OR AFTER MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 1992.

U.K. MAINLAND  
THERE WILL BE A GENERAL INFLATIONARY INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY 3 PERCENT. HOWEVER, RESULTING FROM THE USE OF SOUTHAMPTON, THE CHARGES FOR CERTAIN LOCATIONS WILL REMAIN AT THEIR EXISTING LEVELS. CONVERSELY, IN A LIMITED NUMBER OF CASES WHERE THE ACTUAL COSTS ARE APPRECIABLY HIGHER THAN THE CURRENT RECOVERY LEVELS, APPROPRIATE UPWARD ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE MADE. WHERE NECESSARY THESE ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE PHASED.

IRELAND  
NO INCREASES WILL BE APPLIED AT PRESENT.  
FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE PROVIDED ON REQUEST.  
Dated, 15th September, 1992

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### Government of Bangladesh Police Headquarters

Bangladesh Secretariate  
Bhaban No. 1, Dhaka

### Tender Notice

- Item: Beckon Light, Hooter & P.A. Equipment (with fittings).
- Tender documents available from: Police Headquarters, E.T. Branch, Sheed No. 25, Bangladesh Secretariate, Dhaka (during office hours). 26.9.92.
- Last Date of selling tender documents: 27.9.92 up to 12.00 Noon.
- Cost of tender documents (Non-refundable): 300/- (Tk. three hundred) only.
- Closing Date & Time: 27.9.92 at 12.30 PM.
- Tender opening Date & Time: 27.9.92 at 12.30 PM.
- Earnest money: 3% (three per cent) of quoted value.
- Validity of offer: 30.9.92.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender/tenders without assigning any reason.

DFF (G) 16369-9/9  
G-1147

K. C. Malik  
Asstt. Insp. Genl. of Police (E&T)  
Bangladesh, Dhaka.