

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Ahsan Manzil Wakes up Again

by Sharier Khan



Ahsan Manzil, the sleeping beauty of British Dhaka, wakes up today (Sunday) after a slumber of nearly half a century.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today inaugurates the renovated palatial mansion, unveiling the beauty and history of the British-titled Nawabs of Dhaka.

Once a complete palace for the Nawabs serving often-times as a pleasure house for the British Raj top brass, the Ahsan Manzil is now a museum, open to the common people for a taste of what was aristocracy.

The magnificent 31-chamber house, the huge dome atop, the spacious steps of the portico, well laid out gardens around — all reveal a patch of time forming a link in a chain that carved the history of the land and its people in its own peculiar way.

Khawaja Alimullah, the founder of the dynasty, bought the property on the bank of the river Buriganga, from French merchants in 1835.

His son Khawaja Abdul Ghani shaped his inheritance into the present palace in 1872 and named it Ahsan Manzil after his son Khawaja Ahsanullah.

The cataclysmic cyclone in 1888 severely damaged the palace and it was re-constructed with a dome atop.

During the turn of the century, the palace became a nucleus of the country's politics and culture. It turned into a centre not only of high politics but also of public welfare specially involving the Muslims of the Dhaka city.

Some of the major decisions having direct and profound bearing on economy, social welfare and culture of British Bengal during the close of the 19th century and early 20th century, took shape in this palace.

In Ahsan Manzil, an old city of centuries witnessed in awe the glare of its first electricity and saw running water, duly filtered. That was the beginning of electrifying Dhaka city and a complete water works supplying the needs of the city.

As time went by, the Nawab's palace lost all its splendour of gold and silk with uncared and decay stalking the colonnaded mansion.

Following the war of independence in 1971, the successor of the property left it abandoned.

Soon the palace of Nawab became a beehive of small traders, the garden — a grazing ground for the city cattle with a teeming crowd encroaching on the precincts of the Manzil.

The main entrance on the north, where 'Shehnai' in the 'Nahbatkhana' used to usher every day break and sundown, is now a vibrant cloth market.

The government in 1972 made the palace into a public property and on April 11, 1985 decided to renovate it, turning it into a museum.

The Ahsan Manzil renovation, beautification and turning into museum project of the Bangladesh National Museum under the Culture Ministry got started in March, 1986.

The 13-crore-taka project, a joint venture of Culture and Works ministries, was set to be completed in 1989. But it took two more years to be finished.

The well-furnished museum houses drawing room, dining room, state bed chamber, the Hindu-darshan chamber, the ball room, staircase, billiard and card rooms, the strongroom, and the library.

Most of the 'Nawabi' furniture are original — while a few are close to the original, although without the gems and stones.

The Dhaka Museum and the Works Ministry authority tried their best to reproduce the materials the Nawab's family used. The authority used photographs of the details of the Manzil taken early this century for this purpose.

For security reasons particular parts of the Manzil were constructed anew; while a new staircase is added inside the palace.

And now with the renovated pink-colour mansion on the 4.96 acres of land and 23 galleries inside, the Ahsan Manzil Museum stands and boasts of its regained beauty.



A flower vase used by the Nawabs is on display at the Ahsan Manzil Museum.

### Earnshaw calls on Huda

Graham Earnshaw, Editor of Reuters South East Asia Ltd yesterday called on Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda at his Secretariat office, reports BSS.

They exchanged views on different aspects of mutual interests.

### Two young CU cyclists on tour

CHITTAGONG, Sept 19: Two cadets, Sergeant Mohammad Rezwanul Karim and Sergeant Mohammad Masum Reza of Karnafully battalion number one of BNCC, Chittagong University left here today on a tour of Bangladesh on bicycle, a university press release said, reports BSS.

The two cadets on the eve of their journey expressed the hope that the tour would help promote amity among the people of different regions.

### Weather

#### Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Temporary light rain or shower may occur over the regions of Chittagong and Noakhali. Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday).

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

It also forecasts, weather may deteriorate within a week. The maximum temperature of 34.8 degree Celsius was reported from Sathkira yesterday (Saturday) and the minimum of 22.4 degree from Sylhet.

The sun sets today at 5.57 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.47 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree/Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	34.5	25.4	70	67
Chittagong	33.0	25.8	90	77
Rajshahi	34.2	24.9	66	70
Khulna	33.7	25.7	77	66
Sylhet	34.0	22.4	73	72
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.0	77	91
Dinajpur	33.5	24.2	78	75
Barisal	34.5	25.0	78	81

## Metropolitan

### 'Democracy can't take root if terrorism not rooted out'

CHITTAGONG, Sept 19: Speakers at a seminar on "Democracy, Terrorism and Rural Journalism" here today called for building up a strong social movement against terrorism to pave the way for institutionalisation of democracy in the country.

Unless terrorism is rooted out, the hard earned democracy cannot take root, they opined.

The seminar held at Hathazari thana auditorium, ten kilometre off here under the auspices of Hathazari Press Club was presided over by its adviser and Editor of the weekly Ittehad, Motiuddin Quadri. Syed Wahidul Alam MP, senior journalists Obaidul Huq and Nazir Ahmed, club General Secretary SM Jamaluddin, Hathazari thana Nirbahi Officer Tofazzal Hussain, among others, spoke on the occasion.

They pointed out that the political parties irrespective of their differences on different national issues would have to work together to root out terrorism that had already taken a desperate shape in every nook

and corner of the country. The political parties which had shown a rock-like unity during the anti-autocracy movement should once again stand on one platform to put an end to growing terrorism in the society, they said adding, people would not forgive the political leaders if democracy could not take root because of terrorism by a handful of anti-democratic elements.

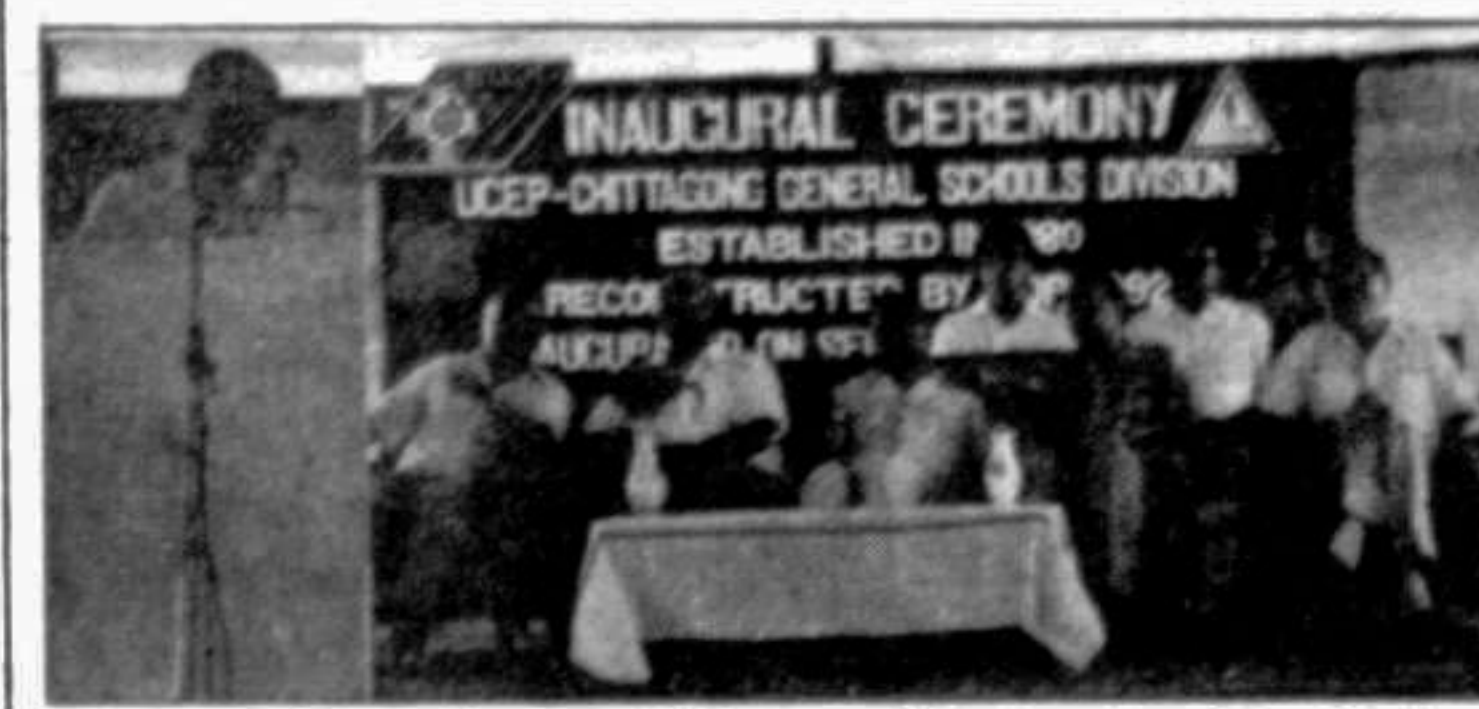
The participants of the seminar hailed government steps to check terrorism and called for an impartial approach in dealing with terrorists. They said the law enforcing agencies should work without fear and favour when rounding up anti-social elements.

They also called upon the members of the law enforcing agencies to find out the sources of arms used by terrorists and make them public so that people could identify them.

The participants also called upon the journalists in urban and rural areas to play their bold and objective role in rooting out terrorism.



M K Anwar, Minister for Commerce, delivering speech as chief guest at the inauguration ceremony of the workshop on "Generalised System of Preferences" (GSP) organised by DCCI in cooperation with UNDP Dhaka and ITC Geneva, Saturday at the DCCI auditorium. M Yunus, President, DCCI (fourth from left), Mahbubur Rahman, President, FBCCI (third from left), Winston Temple, UNDP Representative (second from left), Masudur Rahman, Senior Vice-President, DCCI (extreme left) and Md Ismail Hussain Mian are also seen.



Albert Mehr, Charge-d'Affaires of Switzerland in Dhaka seen addressing as chief guest at the inaugural function of UCEP schools at Pahartali, Chittagong on September 13.

### One drowns in Cox's Bazar seabeach

A government officer who came from the capital on a pleasure trip to the seabeach in Cox's Bazar drowned in the Bay yesterday, reports UNB.

Nurul Islam Khan, Statistician at the Ministry of Health, was swept into the Bay of Bengal by strong waves while swimming near Shaibal Motel on the beach here at about 1 pm, hospital sources said.

Islam, 43, came for the trip along with some family members and friends.

### JS body on Law meet held

The meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry was held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan yesterday with Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafez in the chair, reports BSS.

Members of the committee attended the meeting were, Muhammad Abdus Salam Talukder, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury, Khondker Delwar Hossain, Shudhansu Shekhar Haldar, Jobed Ali, M Amirul Huq and Ansar Ali.

The meeting held discussion on various aspects of the functioning of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

It also discussed matters relating to separation of Judiciary from Executive and withdrawal of upazila system.



Sunday

- 5:00 Opening announcement AL-Quran
- Programme summary
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:20 Recitation from the Bible
- 5:25 Cartoon film
- 6:00 Sports programme
- 6:44 School Bichitra
- 7:05 Tagore songs
- 8:00 News in English
- 8:30 Prabaha
- 9:00 Drama Series: Oshin
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Sur Lahari
- 11:30 Khabar/ The news
- 11:40 Monday's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

### Social resistance a must to curb terrorism : Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon all to build social resistance against terrorism and cruelty that hampered peace and economic progress of the country, reports BSS.

He said, respect to law could only help the society in establishing rule of law.

The President was talking to a nine-member delegation of the 'Society for the Rule of Law' led by its President Principal Raisuddin, at Banglabhaban last morning.

President Biswas urged them to create public opinion against terrorism by resisting the activities of those involved in it to let people live a peaceful life.

He said that democracy should be consolidated with the united efforts of all irrespective of party affiliations and opinions to ensure socio-economic development of the country.

The President said, sincere

and devoted endeavours of all were important in achieving the desired goal of progress through peaceful democratic means.

He said, cooperation of all is equally important to materialise the development programmes undertaken by the present government.

He called upon the delegation to extend its wholehearted cooperation in establishing peace and the rule of law in the society.

The delegation members hailed the promulgation of the Anti-Terrorism Ordinance and pledged, adherence to strict law.

The delegation includes, among others by, Secretary General of the society Advocate Abdus Sobhan, Justice A Matin Khan Chowdhury, Justice M A Wahab, Major General (Retd) MA Jabbar, Advocate AM Nuruddin Ahmed and Advocate Hazrat Ali Sikder of the society.

### CU exams date shifted

CHITTAGONG, Sept 19: The terminal examination of MA first part students in Islamic History and Culture of Chittagong University which was scheduled to be held today 20 would now be held on October 25, at 10 am, a university press release said here today, reports BSS.

### Anniversary of Mansuruddin's death today

Bangladesh Folklore Parishad will observe the fifth death anniversary of noted folklorist Prof Muhammad Mansuruddin today, reports BSS.

A discussion will be held at 4 pm today at the parishad's office at 211, Elephant Road, Nirbishi Bhaban.

Dr Momen Chowdhury will present the keynote paper on the eventful life of Prof Mansuruddin.

### New political party floated

A new political party styled "Free Democratic Party" was floated yesterday by a break-away group of JSD (Rad) leaders with Golam Mostafa as its Convenor, reports UNB.

Mostafa, a former MP from Jhenidah, launched FDP in a press conference at the National Press Club, saying it was conceived to "fill up the vacuum of a full-fledged democratic party".

### Free thinking atmosphere for children suggested

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman yesterday said, the children are the future generation of the country and they will have to grow up in an atmosphere of free thinking and free expression, reports BSS.

She was speaking at a prize giving ceremony of a painting competition for the children on "The Environment" at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy in Dhaka.

The State Minister said, the present government has been providing all-out support to the children for making them healthy and talented citizens of the country.

She gave away prizes among the winners of the painting competition.

Qamrun Nahar Shanta, Saima Rahman and Ruby were awarded first prizes in 'Ka' (5 years to 7 years), 'Kha' (8 years to 10 years) and 'Ga' (11 years to 14 years) group respectively.

### Happy Birthday



To  
**Cynthia**  
Abba, Amma, Dadu,  
Nani, Mukul, Bakul,  
Meghla Khala & Bhaia



South Asian Editor of Reuter Graham Earnshaw called on Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda at his office yesterday.

### Change of PABX Telephone Numbers

#### Head Office

Old Numbers	New Numbers
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882792	
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882794	
882795	
600165	
600166	
600167	

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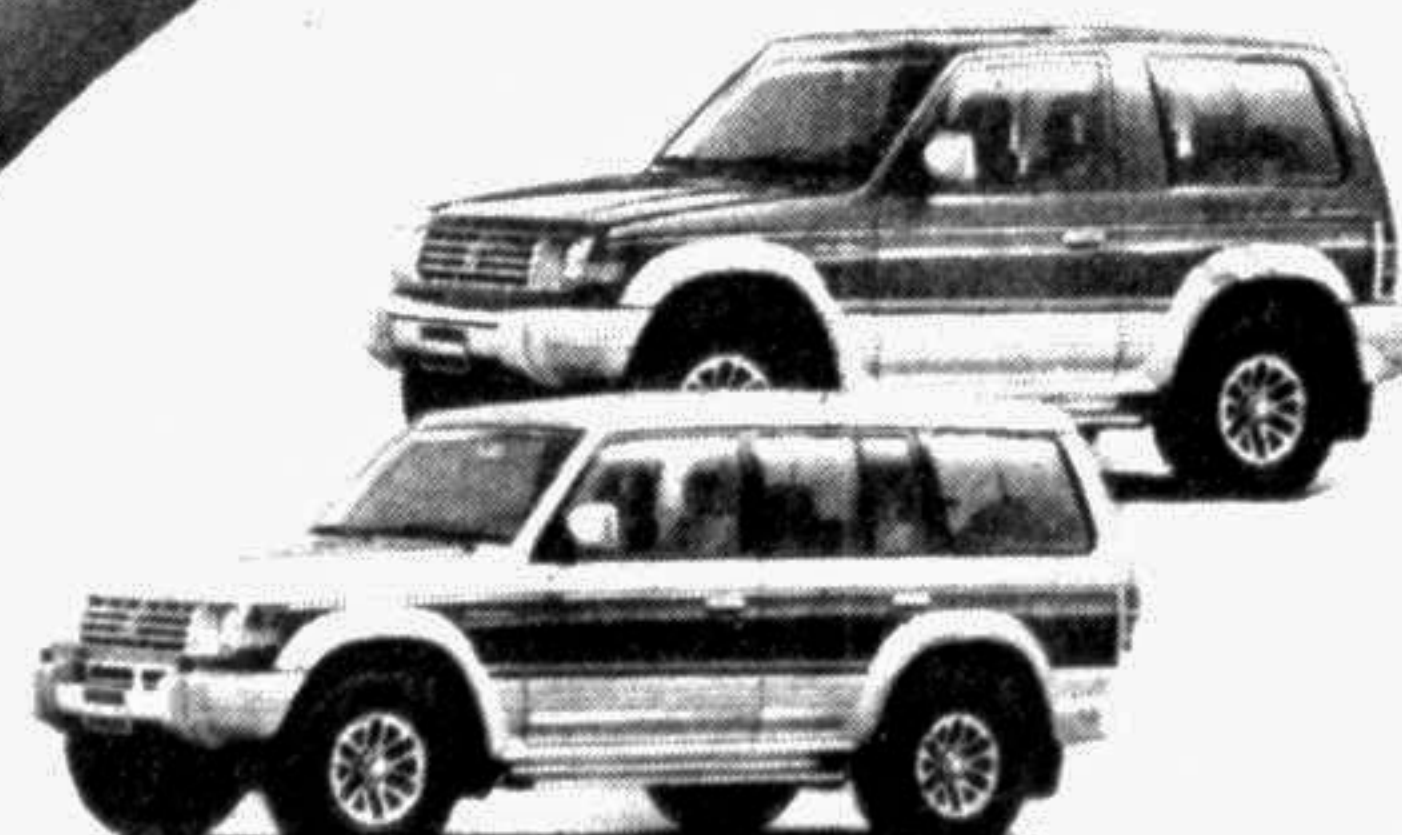


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