Dhaka Day by Day

Boredom Strikes Again

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Boredom is a strange state of mind. If undisturbed it thrives with time and yet even hours of its existence do not make one get quite used to it. While Dhaka is an exciting enough city, with its perpetual muggings, political skirmishes and road accidents, there are moments of ennui that we all experience. This is especially true of various public functions that take place much too often and where moments are really translated into hours.

Inaugural sessions of seminars and workshops are the best hosts of the boredom virus. At these programmes, the chief guest seems to take the idea of being fashionably late a little too seriously. He or she decides to make an entrance at least half an hour to one hour after the time printed on the invitation card. During this waiting period the audience displays an inordinate amount of patience eventhough the symptoms of the boredom disease have begun to show. These include glancing at watches every thirty seconds, opening and closing purses to bring out hanker — chiefs, shifting one leg to the other and violent swinging of the legs.

The guest of honour will then condescend to deliver his speech. This is so laden with platitudes and cliches like 'children are the future of our nation', 'economic growth is essential for poverty alleviation' and 'Bangladesh is a country of rivers' that the inevitable will occur: at least half of the audience will have contracted the boredom disease.

After about forty five minutes this speech comes to a reluctant end, not before, of course, the orator has related an irrelevant and inane anecdote to revive the sleeping masses.

At this point a few members of the audience who have managed to keep their eyelids apart may glance at their cards to reassure themselves of the topic of the seminar. This consists of at least twenty words which, to the lay person will mean only one thing: absolutely nothing!

The main phase of the seminar starts — the reading out of papers for some strange reason the participants of this gruelling show get it into their heads that they must share with the public, years of research in one day. Each of them insist on reading out every single word printed on his or her intellectual masterpiece eventhough the audience has been handed out all the seminar papers . By the time the twenty second page of something like 'The Multi-dimensional Aspects of Regression Analysis using a Number of Variables' is reached, a ripple yawning effect takes place amongst the listeners. A virulent strain of the boredom virus has set in with varied manifestations with the monotone of the speaker are nasal sounds (other wise known as snoring) which range between Cminor to D flat, not to mention elaborate sound effects from the yawners. In the midst of this mini cacophony, are the silent sufferers of the disease, who have their own ways of expressing acute misery. Noses will twitch with added vigour and heads will nod or droop on chests in perfect wison — reminiscent of an Eid congregation.

When the situation threatens to reach the point of no return (to consciousness) a slight remission seems to take place. The tinkling of China will attract quite a few surreptitious glances towards the tea table. Then when a harassed announcer mentions the words 'light refreshments' something magical occurs. Backs straighten up and eyes pop open gleaming with alertness.

Yet happiness is shortlived. The 'light refreshments,' one soon discovers, consist of a greasy oil-dripping "patties" with hints of meat among the hundreds of chillies, a shrivelled up 'shandesh' and half a banana! Inspite of this uninspiring snack people will rush to grab what they can. Even a meagre respite is welcome.

As the second session of the seminar is about to begin the crowd has significantly thinned out, leaving only the few who have decided to brave it alone. Whether this is masochism or natural resilience one cannot tell. At the end of this ordeal you may promise yourself — never, never again. But rest assured that you will and 'Boredom' will strike once again. Just wait for the next seminar.

The Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Chen Song Lu opened a festival of special cuisine of Chinese dishes at the Panda Garden restaurant in the city yesterday.

Chinese envoy opens festival of cuisine

The Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Chen Song Lu, opened a festival of special cuisine of the Chinese dishes at the Panda Garden Restaurant in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Organised by the Ventura Catering Services, the occasion was also addressed by Mahbub Hossain and Deen Mohammad Khan, Managing Director and Adviser respectively of the Ventura Services.

They said the new dishes in the festival represent a variety of delicious foods that are popular all over the world.

The new dishes are available for the customers from today.

Urs Mubarak

The holy Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Bara Peer Shahib Abdul Quader Zilani (RA) will be observed at the Jamaat-e-Sunnati Pak Darbar Sharif at Bheramara in Kushtia district tomorrow, reports BSS.

Peer Shahib Khwaja Nazmul Huda Chishty Sabri Nizami has requested all ashekan and muridan to remain present on the occasion.

'12 cr people can't be victims to terrorists'

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar said here Wednesday that the government was firmly determined to establish peace and discipline in the society, reports BSS.

He said the 12 crore people of the country could not be victims to the hands of a handful of terrorists. The government had passed an anti-terrorist ordinance to restore peace and discipline in the society, he mentioned.

The Minister was addressing as the chief guest a public meeting organised by BNP at Surjyanagar in the Rajbari district.

Presided over by the Mizanpur UP Chairman Kabiruddin Shikder Bablu, the meeting was addressed, among others, by the State Minister for Law and Justice, Barrister Aminul Hoq and central and local BNP leaders.

The minister said the government wanted to bring welfare to the people and added the BNP believed in the politics of production and development. The government had been fulfilling its pre-election commitments one by one, he added.

He said the government had exempted agriculture loan upto Tk five thousand, tax of land upto 25 bighas and extended the age-limit of entry in government service.

He further said the government spent Tk seven thousand crore in the development activities throughout the country in the last fiscal year. No other government in the past could do it in one year, he added.

The Minister said the government had given the highest allocation to education sector, made primary education compulsory and education of girls upto class VIII free.

The government had started an Open University in the country for the benefit of the poor people who could not afford university expenses.

Besides, the government had decided to nationalise nine thousand primary schools throughout the country and one high school and one college in every thana.

'Life truly reflected in kantha'

Bangladesh National Museum held a seminar on "Nakshi Kantha of Bangladesh" here Wednesday afternoon at its premises, reports BSS.

Islam Uddin Malik, Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, who attended the seminar as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the seminar.

The seminar is a part of the programme drawn by the National Museum on "cultural heritage of Bangladesh." Two other seminars on "paintings of Bangladesh" and "architecture of Bangladesh" will be held in November and December respectively.

Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Wakil Ahmed presided over Wednesday's seminar, while Prof Neaz Zaman, Associate Professor of English Depart-ment, Dhaka University presented the key-note paper.

Prof Abdul Hafiz, MP, Shamsuzzaman Khan and Mohammad Saidur took part in the discussion.

Inaugurating the seminar, Malik called for holding such seminars to acquire knowledge on the tradition and culture of Bangladesh. He said life and culture of our country was truly reflected in the kanthas sewn by the womenfolk in the rural areas.

Prof Neaz Zaman traced back the history of the kantha in the rural Bangladesh and how it got the modern shape with the change of time.

Italian envoy meets Mannan

Ambassador of Italy in Bangladesh Dr Cladio Pacifico called on State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest.

Among others, Pierluigi Quarenghi, senior vice-president, Technical Operation Division of Alitalia was also present during the discussion.

Cultural team off to Delhi

A 40-member cultural delegation led by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahanara Begum left Dhaka for New Delhi yesterday to participate in the first South Asian festival scheduled to be held from October 9-24, reports BSS.

All the SAARC countries are participating in the festival, according to a PID handout.

Prime Minister of India Narasimha Rao is expected to inaugurate the festival on October.

State Minister Jahanara Begum will inaugurate the exhibition of paintings by SAARC children at the Aifacs gallery of New Delhi on October 10.

The first South Asian festival will take place in ten cities of India. Performing arts-show, craft's exhibition, exhibition of classical and contemporary paintings and photographs, seminar of education, literature, journalism, musical programmes and paintings and essay competitions for children have been included in the festival.

Two Bangladeshi children Shafkat Wasi Ahed and Momena Jalil will receive gold medal from the Indian premier for their outstanding performances in the children's painting and essay competitions.

Puja body greets all

Leaders of Dhaka City Sarbajanin Puja Committee Wednesday congratulated whole-heartedly all irrespective caste, creed and religion for successful celebration of the Bijoya, reports BSS.

In a statement, Anil Chandra Nath and Dwijendra Nath Shaha, president and general secretary of committee thanked the local administration and the law enforcing agencies for the cooperation in smooth celebration of the Durga Puja.

বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন BTV

Thursday

5.00	Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Recitation from the Geeta
5.25	Debate
6.30	Cartoon
7.05	Campus
7.30	Jiboner Alo (Religious Programme)
8.00	News in Bangla
8.40	Drama of the Week
10.00	News in English
10.30	Film Show : China Beach
11.30	Khabar/The news
11.40	Friday's programme summary
11.45	Closing

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina announcing the names of the Executive Committee of her party's city unit at a meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday. — Star photo

Govt seeks NGO help to develop human resources

Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan yesterday underlined the importance of institutions to develop human resources for attaining national prosperity and well-being of the people, reports BSS.

"We are lagging behind not because of resources, but lack of requisite number of appropriate institutions to develop our human resources," the Minister told a gathering of juveniles and their mothers in observance of World Children Day.

Held under the auspices of juvenile cultural organisation "Sangsaptak" at the Biswa Sahitaya Kendra auditorium, the Planning Minister distributed awards among the winners of paintings competition.

The Planning Minister said human resource development was being neglected since the partition of the sub-continent. The trend continued even after the emergence of Bangladesh, he added.

Fazlul Haq, Chairman of Jatiya Tarun Sangha, Mostaque Ahmed Liton, Convenor of Sangsaptaka and Sanjida Parvin Shoma also spoke on the occasion.

Zahiruddin Khan said the present government had given priority on human resource development and allocated necessary funds to implement that. He said since this is a vast task, government alone cannot do it. The NGOs have to come forward to supplement the government efforts, he added.

Lauding the role of the organisations like Sangsaptak in nurturing children's hidden potentialities, the Minister said community movement could play a vital role in helping the disadvantaged families in Bangladesh for proper rearing up of their wards. He said absence of institutions is the primary cause of our backwardness and added that unless we build up institutions we cannot have desired development.

The Planning Minister said to overcome this shortcoming. The government wanted to involve service oriented NGOs into development activities. The over dependence on government for everything, a legacy of colonial mentality has to be thrown out to expedite development, he added.

Khan said the present government wanted to create necessary environment and would expect that people take part in development activities. "We will intervene only when necessary and our intervention will be positive," he added.

He also laid stress on participatory planning and said without people's participation there could be no real development.

The Planning Minister said that the government would take appropriate policy measures for involving service oriented NGOs in development activities. The massive development needs of Bangladesh could not be attained through traditional means, he added.

The Planning Minister announced a contribution of Taka 35 thousand to help Sangsaptak take up two projects — one for the under-privileged and the other for supplying musical instruments.

Fazlul Haq, Chairman of Tarun Sangha called upon the juvenile organisations to help parents to rear up their children.

BIWTA steps to ensure better navigability

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) have taken all probable measures including dredging of the rivers to ensure navigability of the waterways, reports BSS.

Navigability has posed a problem in various riverine routes this year due to fall in the average water level of the rivers by about three feet compared to previous years, a press release of the BIWTA Wednesday said.

In the Dhaka-Barisal riverine routes navigability has posed a problem in the down stream of Chandpur due to surfacing of char islands at Diarar Char, Badartuni and Badarpur.

Hydrographic survey of the route had already been completed and due to deteriorating navigability situation movement of the riverine transport in the route would be risky after the next two to three days.

But in the Kaliganj-Hijla-Bhashanchar route there would be no problem for movement of watercraft having six feet draft. As such riverine transports plying between Dhaka and Barisal will have to ply through this alternative route which will require additional 30 minutes.

Dredging works have already been undertaken at Miarchar, Badartuni and Muladi routes and movement of rivercraft will be closed in these routes during the next two months.

The press release said despite adverse navigability problem ferrighats of Aricha, Nagarbari and Daulatdia have been kept operational and dredging works had already been undertaken to remove char land in the river Padma near Daulatdia ferryghat. At present three dredgers are working at the spot.

Navigability has also posed a problem in Sirajganj-Bhuapur route necessitating the shifting of the Bhuapur and Sirajganj ghats. Ferry service in the routes have been kept suspended in the route till the ghats were shifted. It is expected that ferry service in the route can be resumed in next one month time provided alternate roads and necessary construction work is done by the roads and highways department.

Weather

Gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light to moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely over the region of Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Noakhali Chittagong and Fridpur during the next 36 hours commencing 6:00 pm Wednesday.

Meteorological office also forecasts, light rain or shower may occur at one or two places elsewhere over Khulna, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and likely to remain mainly dry over Rajshahi division.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Weather may deteriorate.

Extended outlook for another five days: Weather may improve at the end period.

Only 4 mm of rain was recorded on the day at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 5:39 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5:53 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Wednesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.2	25.0	73	67
Chittagong	33.5	25.0	79	78
Rajshahi	32.8	24.1	78	85
Khulna	33.8	24.9	83	72
Barisal	34.0	24.4	83	87
Cox's Bazar	35.4	25.8	69	85
Sylhet	33.5	21.3	83	74
Mymensingh	33.4	25.3	79	73
Dinajpur	32.8	24.0	82	73

World photo contest

Asian Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), Japan and UNESCO will jointly organise the "World Photo Contest-93" on the occasion of the decade of world culture, reports UNB.

The theme of the photo competition will be "The Family", said an official hand-out Wednesday.

Bangladeshi photographers can also participate in the contest. The participants should send three copies of photographs by March 1, '93.

Application forms and detailed information will be available with the local UNESCO National Commission Office at 1, Asian Highway, Nilkhet, Dhaka-1205.

Homeo-mass rally Oct 10

Homeo Medical Students Unity Council will organise a mass rally on October 10 at 11 am in front of the National Press Club to press home their 7-point demands, reports UNB.

They will submit separate memoranda to the Health Minister and Vice Chancellor and Dean of Biological Science of Dhaka University after holding the mass rally on that day.

The demands include induction of their representatives in the Organising Committee of the National Medicine Policy, determination of DHMS course as graduation degree and government recognition to eligible Homeo colleges.

In a press conference at its office at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday morning , the leaders of the council resented the "step-motherly" attitude of the government towards them.

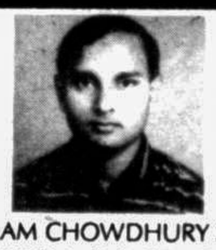
They warned to stage greater movements throughout the country if their demands were not met soon.

Happy Birthday

A very happy birthday to you honey with lots of love

From Jaan

ANNOUNCEMENT



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Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in the Company's prescribed Form are hereby invited from the firms experienced in the relevant lines for white washing/distempering/polishing, etc at the 7, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 (Company's Zone-2 & 6 Office). Tender documents containing terms & conditions, schedule of items of the tender may be had on cash payment of Tk 400/- per set from the company's "Accounts Department," Head Office, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar Commercial Area, Dhaka-1215 from 07-10-92 to 21-10-92 during office hours between 0800 hours and 1200 hours. Tender should be dropped in the box kept in Common Services Department at 6th floor within 1200 hours on 22-10-92 which will be opened on the same day at 1230 hours in presence of bidders, if any.

For detailed information, if required, may be contacted with Manager (Common Services) on all working days between 1000 hours & 1200 hours.

The Company's authorities reserves the sole right to accept/reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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Manager (Common Services)