

# Dhaka Day by Day

## 'You've come a Long Way, Baby'

by Aasha Mehreen Amin



CNN International's state-of-the-art studios in Atlanta

Satellite dishes have become fashionable in Dhaka. Star TV, MTV have become household names. For a few at least. To top it all CNN International (CNN) has arrived, bringing the rest of the world closer to us.

With an age of about 12 years, CNN International is the world's first and foremost 24 hour television news network. It reached its peak of international popularity during the Gulf War, being the first news network to report live, a war while it was going on. CNN's live coverage of the student uprising in China in 1989, of the dismantling of the Berlin wall and of super power summits such as the Helsinki summit in 1990, — earned worldwide respect. CNN's uniqueness is that scheduled programmes are interrupted to bring viewers the latest news stories from all over the world, as and when they happen. It is available in over 100 countries to more than 70 million households.

As the person mainly responsible for bringing CNN to Bangladesh, Onu Jagirdar — managing director of CNN operations, feels optimistic about the network's popularity in this country. So what made CNN come here in the first place? Jagirdar says that this is part of CNN's broader objective to promote and distribute ideas to as many countries as possible. "No one thought CNN could be acceptable to Bangladesh", says Jagirdar matter of factly, "but on the contrary it has been very well received. It has come as an opening of barriers between Bangladesh and the rest of the world. It shows that our new democracy is working and we are not afraid of outside information."

In Bangladesh there are approximately 600,000 television sets which brings an audience of about 6 million people and Jagirdar believes that this number is more likely to go up than down.

At present Bangladesh's viewers can watch CNN from 7 am to 1 pm on local television without paying anything extra for satellite dishes. This is a little inconvenient for working people since this covers office hours. Jagirdar informs that this has been a trial broadcast and

that if there is enough demand then it is possible that the timings could be changed to a more convenient time such as in the afternoon or after midnight.

Which brings us to the inevitable question: who pays for all this? The contract with BTV is that it will get free use of CNN for six months during which it can exploit an advertisement time of six minutes per hour. International Media Services foots the bill for this and has provided the satellite dish (the third largest on BTV's rooftop) and other technical equipment.

Censorship is something BTV seems to be overly zealous about. So how does BTV reconcile itself with uncensored items on CNN? Says Onu Jagirdar, "Well, the programmes on CNN do not really have much that would call for censorship. We have agreed that if there are programmes that go against the cultural norms of Bangladesh we will edit those. But overall we are pleased to see that BTV is very liberal about CNN's broadcasting."

One of the special features that make CNN so exclusive says Jagirdar is that compared to BHC or NBC, CNN does not have much editorial or political analysis, concentrating on just giving viewers the facts without trying to influence them. Moreover he adds that this audio visual medium through satellite crosses language, political and global barriers. This makes news more immediate and real.

As far as competition goes CNN is far from being worried. According to a study that surveyed 2,000 senior executives in 17 European countries CNN had the highest weekly viewing of all satellite channels in Bangladesh. Jagirdar believes CNN is going to be a hit. He says, "I don't think CNN has any competition. There will be other news channels but no one has the access, distribution, respectability or logistics of CNN, as far as news is concerned". Whether this confidence is wellfounded only time will tell. It is nevertheless, quite encouraging when a housewife in a remote village in Tangal says, "Oh yes, they show something called 'CN' in the mornings on TV". You've come a long way CNN!

### World White Cane Day today

World White Cane Day will be observed in the country today (Thursday) as elsewhere in the world, reports UNB.

Various social organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day to create awareness among the people to assist the blind in their overall development.

Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) and the national forum of NGOs working for the handicapped will jointly hold a rally in the city at 9 pm today. The rally will begin from Shishu Academy and end in front of Jatiya Press Club after parading through Noor Hossain Square (zero point).

The rally will be participated, among others, by Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury. Bangladesh Dishaithin Foundation will arrange a discussion meeting at Bangladesh Research Council (BARC) at 5 pm today.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury will attend the discussion as chief guest while Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam and Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf as special guests.

The programme of Bangladesh National Society for the Blind will include white cane demonstration in front of Jatiya Press Club from 9 am to 11 am.

It will be followed by a rally of the blind that will parade different thoroughfares in the capital.

### JU students protest shifting of exam dates

Contrary to the usual practice, the students of Jahangirnagar University demonstrated their protest Wednesday against the university authorities' decision to shift the honours examination dates sine die, reports BSS.

The decision was taken Tuesday following an appeal by some students reported to be the activists of Chhatra Shibir who were ousted from the campus and their seats handed over in the hall, allegedly for keeping illegal fire arms and handbombs, last month.

The examinations for the first and second year honours classes were scheduled to begin this week.

A large number of students yesterday brought out a procession protesting the decision. The procession paraded the campus and later gheraoed the Vice-Chancellor's office and handed over a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kazi Saleh Ahmed demanding examinations on the scheduled dates announced earlier.

### Majid meets FAO official

Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Resources and Flood Control M. Majid-Ul-Haq, Tuesday met FAO Director General Edouard Saouma, IFAD Executive Director and WFP acting Executive Director Salahuddin Ahmed in separate meeting in Rome, according to a message received in Dhaka, reports BSS.

They discussed the visit of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to Rome.

At the invitation of FAO Chief Saouma, Begum Zia would attend the "World Food Day" celebration on October 16.

She would deliver the key note speech at the celebration.

### Kazi Samity executive body formed

A 13-member executive committee of Dhaka district Kazi Samity was formed here yesterday with Kazi Syed Sharatullah, Ghulam Kibria Chowdhury and Kazi Raisuddin as President, Vice-President and Secretary respectively, a press release said, reports BSS.

## Coordinated resistance sought to reduce natural calamities

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday underscored the need for building coordinated national resistance to reduce natural calamities with a view to ensuring economic and social progress, reports BSS.

He said that both the people and the government machineries should be involved in disaster preparedness programmes and preventive measures to reduce the loss incurred by any natural calamity. The President was speaking

as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the 1992 international day for natural disaster reduction held at the Osmani Memorial Hall here.

Organised by the Relief Ministry the function was also addressed by State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan, UNDP Resident Representative Charles H Larosmont, Relief Secretary M A Hakim and Joint Secretary A Z M Hossain Khan.

President Biswas said along with national level activities

international cooperation and coordination would help reduce the loss of natural calamities. He said assistance and cooperation among the natural calamities prone countries of the world would also help solve these problems.

The President said that public awareness should be created for spontaneous involvement of the people in disaster preparedness programmes to reduce the losses and mitigate the sufferings of the victims.

The Minister was speaking as chief guest at the central council 1992 of Bangladesh Metal Workers' Federation (BMF) at the BCIC auditorium in the city.

### Work unitedly, LGRD Minister asks metal workers

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday said that the metal workers of the country were rendering great service to the expansion of mills and factories as well as the economic development of the country. He called upon them to work unitedly for the overall development of the country, reports BSS.

The Minister was speaking as chief guest at the central council 1992 of Bangladesh Metal Workers' Federation (BMF) at the BCIC auditorium in the city.

Presided over by the acting President of BMF Mabirur Rahman, the council was addressed, among others, by Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, President of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Shramik Dal Iskander Ali, Director of International Metal Workers Federation, west Asian office KS Chellappan, Director of ILO, Bangladesh, Warner K Blenk, General Secretary of BMF Nazrul Islam Khan and Joint Secretary of BMF, KAM Nazrul Islam.

Quoting the old proverb "Industry is the mother of good luck" the LORD and Cooperatives Minister said that no nation could be developed without being industrious. He said that all should work hard for the development of the country.



Muhammad Ganjidoost, Ambassador, Islamic Republic of Iran to Bangladesh called on BUET Vice-Chancellor Prof M Shahjahan at his office yesterday.

## China building socialism in own model: Envoy

China has achieved growth rate of nine per cent in the last decade and the authorities there are hopeful to keep the rate in future too, reports BSS.

Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh Cheng Song Lu said this while addressing as chief guest Tuesday, a reception arranged to celebrate the 43th founding anniversary of Peoples Republic of China by Bangladesh-China Friendship Association (Unity Centre) here.

The Ambassador said that China was building socialism in its own model through which the pace of development in different sectors is being en-

ured there. Mentioning the prevailing friendly relations between Bangladesh and China Song Lu hoped that the relations would be strengthened through the cooperation of the people of Bangladesh in future.

Presided over by Luthfe Alam, President of the Association, the function was addressed by Montu Khan and Delwar Hossain, Secretary General and the Vice President of the Association respectively. Leaders of various socio-political bodies, elite and high officials attended the function.



Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Emile Gauvreau presenting the report on the Reservoir Engineering Studies of the Gas Field Appraisal Project (GFAP) to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources yesterday. PID photo

## Canadian project identifies 7.5 trillion cft of gas reserves

A Canadian appraisal project has identified 7.5 trillion cubic ft of gas reserves and about 50 million barrels of recoverable liquid reserves in eight gas fields of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Emile Gauvreau presented the report on the Reservoir Engineering Studies of the Gas Field Appraisal Project (GFAP) to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources here Wednesday.

The GFAP was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) with a contribution of 46.26 million Canadian dollar equivalent to Tk 1.43 billion for the period 1985-93 as a component of the multi-donor second gas development project.

The project consisted of drilling nine wells and work over two wells, carrying out reservoir engineering studies and drilling and reservoir

training. These studies include geological, geophysical, petrophysical, reservoir engineering and production facilities, engineering analysis of eight gas fields including the six major gas fields of Bangladesh.

The gas fields are Benabazar, Kaliahtilla, Ras-hidpur, Habigonj, Titas, Bakhrabad, Marichakandi and Belabo, according to an official handout.

The GFAP has been completed and the field studies representing the major output of the reservoir engineering component conducted by Intercomp Kanata Management Ltd (IKM) of Canada. Handing over the documents to Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary Mohammad Ali at his office, the Canadian High Commissioner said Canada will continue its cooperation in the develop-

ment of oil and gas sector in Bangladesh.

The Energy Secretary thanked the High Commissioner and the government of Canada for their continued interest in the overall socio-economic development of Bangladesh, particularly the energy sector.

Senior officials of the Canadian High Commission, CIDA and the Energy Ministry were present on the occasion.

CIDA has recently proposed a technical assistance package to support government's effort to enhance the gas sector's effective management and efficient development. The proposed project will assist in strengthening of the institutional capacity in the gas sector.

Canada is the largest donor to Bangladesh while Bangladesh is the largest recipient of Canadian bilateral assistance.

## Setting up of kidney institute under study

The government is contemplating establishment of a National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology to meet the growing demand for treatment of the kidney patients in the country, State Minister for Health Sirajul Haq told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a call attention notice from Begum Raushan Ara Hena of BNP, he said a project proposal to this effect was submitted before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on March 28 this year. The ECNEC, he said, asked for recasting the project and submitting it again.

The State Minister said, the OPEC has responded positively to provide assistance for implementation of the project. Haq said, at present kidney dialysis and operation facilities are now available in the post

graduate hospital. Besides, he added, dialysis facility is also available in three other clinics.

The State Minister said 88 per cent of the kidney operations conducted at the PG hospital were successful. Earlier, in her notice Begum Raushan Ara Hena said, at present there are 50 lakh kidney patients in the country and those who want kidney transplantation have to go to a neighbouring or other countries incurring a huge expenditure.

## Cultural show to mark Dhaka-Tokyo diplomatic ties

The Embassy of Japan, Shilpakala Academy and National Museum have jointly organised various cultural programmes to mark the 20th anniversary of Japan-Bangladesh diplomatic relations this year, according to a Japanese Embassy press release yesterday, reports BSS.

The programmes include show of Japanese puppet theatre, performance of Japanese popular folk music, exhibition of contemporary Japanese architecture and display of photo panel on Japanese people.

## Trial of Mamun's killers demanded

Several hundred Dhaka University students yesterday demonstrated remorse on the chequing of two slain JCD activists and demanded trial of the killers, reports UNB.

Mamun and Mahmud were shot dead on the campus on September 4 following an internal feud between Ratan and Ilyas factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of ruling BNP.

Wearing black badges to condole the grisly killings, the mourners came out of the campus in a procession and marched up to the Jatiya Press Club.

The processionists, mostly belonging to JCD, held a rally near the Press Club where they demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers.

In the afternoon, JCD supporters held a mass mahfil at the Suryasen Hall.

## Shishu Ananda Mela at Press Club tomorrow

Shishu Ananda Mela and various sports competitions will begin tomorrow (Friday) at the Jatiya Press Club on the occasion of its 38th founding anniversary, reports UNB.

The games are: Women's Ludo and Pillow Passing at 10 am tomorrow, Men's Chess and Table Tennis on Saturday at 10 am.

On October 19 (Monday), Mini-marathon will be held (Men-age over 40) and (Women). Another Mini-marathon (age up to 40) will start from Farmgate and end at the Press Club.

These games will be held in the courtesy of Bangladesh Footware.

The events Shishu Ananda Mela day are: Run, drawing competition, musical and recitation competition, beginning at 9 am.

## Works Minister hands over Uttara plots

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia yesterday formally handed over the possession of plots to the allottees in the Sector No 13 and 14 at Uttara residential area in the city, reports BSS.

The Minister while handing over the documents to the allottees, said that the present government was committed to solve the problems of housing over the possession of plots created during the past regime.

He expressed his hope that all the genuine allottees would get the possession of plots phase by phase by the concerned authorities.

### International Tender Notice

Under IDA Credit Nr. 1734- BD

1. The Dhaka WASA Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Dhaka WASA) has received a Credit Nr. 1734-BD from the International Development Association amounting to SDR 26.4 million in various currencies towards the cost of the Dhaka WASA Water Supply and Sanitation Urgent Expansion Project. It is intended that part of the proceed of this credit will be applied to eligible payments for the under mentioned Contracts and as such bids are invited from eligible bidders for the supply of the following items:-

Contract Number	Description of Supply Items	Date of Availability of Tender Documents	Date of Submission of Tender Documents
DW 25-1992	Ductile Iron Pipes and Fittings	22 October, 1992	06 December, 1992
DW26-1992	Gas Chlorination Equipment	22 October, 1992	08 December, 1992
DW27-1992	Water Pumps and Appurtenances	22 October, 1992	08 December, 1992
DW28-1992	Screen, Pump Housing & Blank Casing Pipe	22 October, 1992	06 December, 1992
DW29-1992	Sewer Pipes and Fittings	22 October, 1992	08 December, 1992
DW30-1992	Vehicles and Motor Cycles	22 October, 1992	10 December, 1992
DW31-1992	Potable Water Tanker and Sewer Cleaning Vehicles	22 October, 1992	10 December, 1992
DW32-1992	Gate Valves and Appurtenances	22 October, 1992	13 December, 1992
DW33-1992	Water Meters	22 October, 1992	13 December, 1992
DW34-1992	S. R. Cement	22 October, 1992	06 December, 1992

2. Interested, eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the Chairman, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, (2nd Floor), Dhaka-1215.

3. Two complete sets each of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on submission of written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 3,000.00 (Taka three thousand only). Bidding documents will be available to eligible bidders at least 45 days before the date of opening of the bid.

4. All bids accompanied by a security of 3% (three per cent) of the Total Bid price, must be delivered to the above office on or before 11:00 hours (local time) on the date of submission of tender respectively. The bids will be publicly opened immediately thereafter in the presence of those representatives of the bidders who choose to attend.

5. The Purchaser is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

WASA-PI-347/92  
DFF (G) 17994-12/10  
G-1291

**Chairman**  
Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, Dhaka.

## Weather

### Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain or showers may occur at many places over Chittagong division and at a few places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi division with isolated moderately heavy falls over Chittagong divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6am today (Thursday).

The met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets today Thursday at 5.32pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5.57. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/ Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	30.0	26.2	89	90
Chittagong	27.5	24.6	100	100
Rajshahi	32.2	23.8	98	88
Khulna	31.3	26.6	86	95
Cox's Bazar	30.8	24.0	97	88
Sylhet	25.5	22.5	100	91
Dinajpur	31.5	22.6	84	74
Barisal	30.5	24.8	86	98