

Dhaka Day by Day

Guest Control!

by S. Bari



Fond as we may be of Dhaka, hot tourist destination it sure ain't. Visitors to Dhaka are generally here on business, on research, or on their way to somewhere else.

There exists, however, another group: the eternal houseguest. Members of this species spend their evenings scanning the globe for places where they have acquaintances. If no personal acquaintance can be found, they will settle for their teacher's neighbour's cousin's son-in-law. A connection is a connection, no matter how wishful.

The unfortunate individual selected in Dhaka has no idea his city is next on the hit list. In order to catch his victim at home, the would-be guest calls out of the blue at 5:30 am on a weekend. From that moment forward the prey is doomed.

No amount of finagling can get you off the hook. I know. I've tried any excuse known to man. Excuses tested and failed: it's such a small apartment, you wouldn't be comfortable; I don't have a car, transport will be difficult for you; there really isn't much to see in Dhaka; my parents will be visiting us then.

Do NOT try any of these. They cause the guest to protest that they don't need luxury, they can travel happily in scooters, sightseeing is not their cup of tea anyway, and they would just love to meet your parents.

Excuses I am holding on to for next time: the flat is infested with cockroaches; my landlord is an Islamic fundamentalist; the crime situation in Dhaka is worse than New York; I have a habit of dismembering houseguests who stay for over a week.

After several dozen phone calls to ensure my presence at the airport, my guests arrived. They obviously believed in the maxim of safety in numbers, because there were four other people there to receive them. This paranoia stems from the fact that outsiders think of Dhaka as a kind of minor Beirut, with Jamaatis lurking around every corner and students concealing deadly weapons in their labs.

A houseguest's luggage is always a fair measure of his intentions. The luggage that day was alarmingly voluminous. In all honesty, they were a nice couple, but the husband did not carry the prerequisites of good guesthood: independence, a relaxed attitude, and nice gifts for the host. Fortunately, the wife did, otherwise they would not have starred in today's story.

Mr Guest had a list: it started with Jagannath Hall, went through Barisal and Rangamati, and ended with his birthplace in

Sylhet. To add a bit of action to this itinerary, which he planned to cover by river and road in 6 days, he had a total of 53 acquaintances to call on in Dhaka alone.

If you have been reading attentively, you know what his definition of an acquaintance was. Suffice it to say that the conversation with the acquaintance consisted of fifteen minutes of explanation about who the caller was. The remaining two minutes were dedicated to asking for the car.

Once transport was harnessed, the rounds of sightseeing went into full swing. The day became so hectic that the only time they could sandwich in the Shriti Shoudho was at high noon — when the bricks themselves were yearning for shade. A trip to the university was successful only after a number of attempts, thanks to usual situation, and by then the guests were terrified of the place.

And then of course there was their dose of Dhaka's hospitality. Breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner: a constant swirl of invitations that left the guests drinking Orsoline for the last few days of their stay.

This timely setback was not the boon it appeared to be. Now they had time to sit and chat with us. Conversations dragged on and our social life hit rock bottom while we awaited their recovery.

Let us not forget that among the many roles a host has to play, such as driver, secretary, travel agent and doctor, is the role of banker. Houseguests always need the equivalent of two hundred dollars just after banking hours. They also always look surprised and slightly disappointed when informed that you don't have that kind of cash on hand, as if you were unsuccessful smuggler.

When the visa was about to expire, Mr Guest was having such a good time shopping and living on Thai dinners and Orsoline that he thought it a good idea to extend his stay. By this time, the host had seriously considered a friend's suggestion to put the couple on a train to Jessore and launch a reverse Operation Push Back.

This proved unnecessary. The guests had bought enough Jamdanis and drained enough of the host's funds. On the third evening in a row that we had khichuri, they said to themselves, "These people are going broke." So they took the six hundred for their airport tax and left.

Two hours later, another guest arrived. I am not making this up.

'Violence-free campus needed for peaceful academic arena'

RAJSHAHI Oct 22: Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Anisur Rahman called upon the students to devote themselves to their studies to be worthy citizens of the country, reports UNB.

He was addressing a freshers' reception function organised by the RUCSU on Tuesday at the West administrative building.

He said, "Youths are the future hope of the nation." They must equip themselves through honest and sincere devotion to studies to shoulder the future responsibilities of the country.

He also said violence free campus was the prerequisite for the disciplined and peaceful academic arena.

RUCSU VP Rezvi Ahmed and GS Babu urged the freshers to be the vanguard against violence keeping themselves aloof from the direct politics.

They expressed concern over the recurring violence on the campus and urged the authorities to take stern measures against the evil doers.

A cultural function was held after the function.

Non-govt teachers' problems discussed

The third meeting of the high-powered committee formed earlier to solve the problems of the non-government teachers and employees was held at the conference room of Education Ministry Shaful Alam in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed matters relating to sanction of next higher scale for experienced teachers recruitment rules, promotion and amendment of staffing patterns and index number for employees in detail and took some important decisions.

The other problems of the non-government teachers and employees will be discussed in the next meeting of the committee.

Among others, members of the committee: Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Finance H R Dutta, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Establishment Ahsan Ali Sarker, Director General of Secondary and Higher Education Prof Eunus Mia, leaders of liaison committee Principal A K M Akhtaruzzaman, Prof Asadul Hoq.



Morning Session

- 8:00 Opening announcement
- 8:05 Al-Quran Programme summary
- 8:10 News in Bangla
- 8:15 Aloré Dishari
- 8:40 Cartoon: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 9:05 Moder Garab Moder Asha
- 9:35 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:10 Moner Mukurey
- 11:10 The Girl from Tomorrow
- 11:40 Documentary: World Life on One
- 12:15 Closing

Evening Session

- 3:00 Opening announcement
- 3:05 Al-Quran Programme summary
- 3:10 Recitation from the Tripitak
- 3:15 Cartoon
- 3:40 Movie of the Week
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:55 Sports programme: Football
- 7:05 Malancha
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
- 9:00 Kichhukshan
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:35 Parliament round-up
- 10:55 LA Law
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Saturday's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

Weather

Day temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain or shower is likely to occur over the regions of Chittagong, Noakhali, Sylhet and Mymensingh during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday).

The Met office forecasts, weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius across the country. The Met office forecasts of a dry weather to prevail in the country within two days.

The maximum temperature of 33.0 degree Celsius was reported from Satkhira yesterday (Thursday) and the minimum of 20.5 degree was reported from both Dinajpur and Chuadanga.

The sun sets today Friday at 5.26 pm and rises tomorrow Saturday at 6.00 am. 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	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.2	23.0	83	74
Chittagong	30.2	23.5	78	78
Rajshahi	31.2	20.8	81	85
Khulna	30.5	22.2	83	80
Sylhet	30.0	23.2	61	80
Cox's Bazar	29.8	23.0	87	86
Barisal	29.8	23.0	80	90
Dinajpur	31.4	20.5	93	78

Biswas calls for united efforts to improve standard of living

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called for united efforts of all nations for improving the standard of living of the people world-over through alleviating poverty, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on World Peace, organised by Lions Clubs International at a city hotel, the President said the developed nations and the international agencies must play an important role in the process of unity of the nations for fighting out poverty, hunger and diseases.

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Emile Gauvreau spoke on the occasion as the special guest, while Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) Winston Temple presented a key-note speech on World Peace.

Presided over by District Governor MC Morshed, the seminar was addressed, among others, by Lion Regional Chairman Iqbal Hossain Khan and Lion leader Jalal Ahmed.

Dwelling on world peace, President Biswas said world peace was largely dependent on the smooth building of the

future for the mankind. It needed consolidation of the friendly ties, confidence and faith among the nations, he added.

President Biswas said a deep sense of love among the people with an outlook of service, the present world could be turned into a place of peace.

President Biswas said when there was affluence of resources in one part of the world there was heart rendering cry for food of the hungry people on the other. In such a situation the developed nations must stand beside the developing and undeveloped nations, he said and added that international assistance and cooperation should be consolidated in the fight against natural calamities as well as man-made problems.

The President said all nations irrespective of the economic status must play a positive role in promoting human civilisation. Because, man is the custodian of property and a peaceful atmosphere in an important factor in this connection.

Dwelling on the situation in Bangladesh, President Biswas said the country was striving for meeting the basic needs of

the people like food, clothes, shelter, medicare and education.

"We have nearly attained self-reliance in food production", the President said and thanked the peasants for hard labour in increasing food production. He also thanked the friendly countries and international agencies for their co-operation in the process of our achieving self-reliance in food production.

In his speech, the Canadian High Commissioner, Emile Gauvreau, said mutual trust and confidence among the nations in terms of meeting the basic needs of the mankind globally could ensure the process of peace in the present day world.

In his key-note speech, Winston Temple called for diverting heavy expenditure on military and nuclear build-up by the developed nations to remove the sufferings and poverty of the people.

87,000 tons shrimps produced in last fiscal year

Some 87,000 metric tons of shrimp was produced in the country in the last fiscal year, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman told parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Happy Birthday



Wanted

A well-groomed young lady with pleasant personality to work for an English daily newspaper on attractive retainer-cum-commission basis. Minimum qualification: 'O' level or equivalent. Must be fluent in English & Bangla. Apply with complete Bio-Data and a recent passport size photograph to: The Advertiser, GPO Box No: 3257, Dhaka, by 31 October, 1992. Envelopes must be marked "Collection Executive". D-582

Short International Tender for 700 M. tons of Soda Ash (Heavy)

Managing Director, USMANIA GLASS SHEET FACTORY Ltd., Kalurghat I/A, Chittagong-4212 invites sealed offers for supply of 700 (seven hundred) M. Tons of SODA ASH (heavy) against tender No. Sheet Glass/Pur/1.20/92-93/- (20) on C&F (C) Chittagong basis under WES or any suitable source of finance. Tender documents will be available from the factory office at Kalurghat I/A, Chittagong, from the Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka and from the General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong on payment of Tk. 500.00 (five hundred) only per set. Tender will be received up to 12-00 Noon on 10-11-92 at UGSF Ltd. in the Chamber of Addl Chief Manager (Purchase) and will be opened immediately. Earnest money 1%.

No tender will be sold on the opening day.

D-589



Women unit of Nirmul coordination body brought out a procession in the city demanding implementation of the People's Court Verdict on Golam Azam yesterday. — Star photo

Wheat production exceeds 10 lakh tons: Shamsul

Food Minister Shamsul Islam yesterday said the government had given utmost importance for the rapid and healthy growth of small industrial units in the country, reports BSS.

He said all-out efforts were being made so that the entrepreneurs of small industries could run their units smoothly.

The minister was addressing a conference of the newly formed Bangladesh Roller Flour and Ata Millers Association at the National Press Club auditorium here.

Secretary Irshadul Haq and former secretary and member of the Planning Commission Mohammad Strajuddin as the special guests.

Shamsul Islam said the total production of wheat this year had exceeded 10 lakh tons. The government is encouraging the farmers for increased wheat production, he said adding if the current pace of yield could be maintained, dependence on abroad for wheat would come down to zero within the next few years.

He assured the flour and ata mill owners of supplying wheat at fair price. He also asked them to determine their profit considering the purchasing capacity of the common people.

Construction work of bridge over Balu river begins

The construction work of the 280 feet RCC bridge on the Balu river at Chanpara near Demra bazar started yesterday, reports BSS.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday inaugurated the drilling work by unveiling the plaque.

The estimated cost of the bridge which will be 14 feet wide is about Taka one crore. The bridge will be completed within the next six months.

On completion of the bridge will help improve transport and communication condition, industrialisation, housing, land use and marketing of agricultural products. It will also facilitate socio-economic condition and living standard of the people of Rujganj thana and Demra industrial area directly.