

Dhaka Day by Day

The meeting mania

by Parveen Anam



Dhaka and the Dhakaites have a few incomparable traits. Traits which are not to be found anywhere else, traits which make the Dhakaites stand apart from the ordinary, so to speak. Mind you, the Dhakaites are quite proud of these odd traits. He takes a sadistic pleasure, in flaunting these about, in case somebody has missed them. Take a little walk, to any one of those little offices, maintained at the tax payers expense, for an urgent piece of work. The work, unfortunately, is urgent only to you. For that marvellous piece of humanity, on the other side of the desk, who has the magic wand, to do the needful, is absent from his haven. The bored man, his peon, suppressing a yawn, big enough to show what he had for breakfast the day before, will inform you in an equally bored vice, that the 'boss' is away at a meeting. Of course, you should have guessed. Where else could he be? For his little muller, or whatever identification he has, is draped lovingly over the back of his chair, guaranteeing for his pay, at the end of the month, while he is away at the meeting. Where, or where, would we be without those MEETINGS? we wonder? we wonder? Those fellows would not know what to do with themselves, if they had to sit behind a desk all day. What a waste of the eternal sugary tea and singhara, the menu of all those meetings. Duty beckons, and they are of the very considered opinion, that devotion to duty is not a sacrifice; it is a justification to their otherwise dull existence in this dull world. So, to liven up their lives, the meetings were invented. Perhaps, it would not be such a bad idea, to try and put a couple of microphones, strategically,

in one of those meetings, and make public the proceedings to the masses, who pay for the marathon sessions. Remember the bit about the tax-payer, etc? But then, they could probably only be described as high comedy. If only meetings could solve the problems, faced by us more ordinary mortals, wishes would be horses with no lack of riders. The average Dhakaites inability to co-operate is congenial; but come meeting time and the co-operation is phenomenal. We all have the time, to meet punctually, for the — — meetings. We cannot help but whisper to anyone who would listen, that such dedication in solving the national problems, would have us feeding the multitudes in no time at all. An anti-meeting ordinance would perhaps not be amiss, we mutter to ourselves, as we make that 17th visit to the office, with barely hidden contempt, for the likes of us, that a meeting is in progress. Could we come back later? or preferably, not at all? All problems are solved, if the powers that be, have shut themselves away, behind inscrutable doors, with equally inscrutable expressions, to hold their meetings. It is a privilege denied the riff raff, of which the majority consist; all they can do is make endless rounds to the respective offices, hoping the endless meeting has come to a close. To no avail, of course. Perhaps the powers that be, can consider entering the 'marathon meeting contest' a contest the 'meeting maniacs' would be sure to win. At least the tax payers money would be well spent.

Small industries can help absorb more manpower, says Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday underscored the need for setting up more small and cottage industries in the country to solve the unemployment problem, reports BSS.

He said the small industries could help absorb more manpower and create avenues for self-earning.

The President was exchanging views with a 25-member delegation of the National Association of Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh, (NASCIB) when they called on him at Bangabhaban.

Mohammad Habibur Rahman Sheikh, President of the association led the delegation.

President Biswas said, the main problem of the country is the unemployment and lack of self-earning sources.

He said to meet this problem, initiatives of the entrepreneurs with due interest in industrialisation was necessary for achieving self-reliance.

Commodities worth Tk 3.5 cr seized

The authorities of Dhaka customs, excise and VAT collectorate seized commodities worth Taka 3.50 crore during the month of October for non-payment of VAT, reports BSS.

A total of 226 departmental cases have been filed against the concerned factories in this connection.

Among the products seized included chalk powder, gas lamp, hair brush, mineral water, stapler pin, electrical goods, PVC pipe, medicine, shemal, bricks, colour, tarpin, cotton, robber, processing oil, crockeries, napkin, soyabean oil, mosquito net cloth, bidi, cigarette, saree, coconut oil, MS rod, television, air conditioner, soar, electrical fan and grey fabric.

Panos Institute fellowship

The Panos Institute, London, will award ten fellowships on environmental journalism for the years 1992 and 1993, reports BSS.

Each fellowship involves travel to a neighbouring South Asian or South East Asian country. Each fellow will be required to work on an environment and development problem and issue of the country he or she will be offered to visit.

The fellow will have to submit a report after the fellowship visit. Five of the fellowships are for women.

The fellowships are for working journalists having capacity to write in Bangla or English. However, a fellow should have working knowledge of English since he or she will be required to communicate in the country of his visit.

Passing-out parade of air force held

CHITTAGONG, Nov 12: The passing-out parade of a batch of recruits of the Bangladesh Air Force was held at the recruits' training school parade ground, BAF Base Zahurul Haque here this morning, reports BSS.

Addressing the BDR sector commanders and senior officials of the BDR headquarters here, Gen Hossain hoped that the BDR members would uphold their tradition.



Friday Morning Session

8-00	Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
8-10	News in Bangla
8-15	Alore Dishari
8-40	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
9-05	Khelar Jagat
9-30	The Spectacular World of Guinness Records
10-00	News in English
10-10	Shangsaptak
11-05	The Girl from Tomorrow
11-30	Documentary film Closing
12-15	Closing

Evening Session

3-00	Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
3-12	Recitation from the Tripitak
3-15	Cartoon
3-50	Movie of the Week
5-10	News in Bangla
5-30	Sports programme
7-05	Sangeta
8-00	News in Bangla
8-30	Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
9-00	Antaranga
10-00	News in English
10-30	Drama series: L A Law
11-30	Khabar/The News
11-40	Saturday's programmes summary
11-45	Closing.

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather will prevail over the country with partly cloudy sky over the regions of Chittagong and Noakhali during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday). Night temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over the country, the Met office forecasts.

The maximum of 32.4 degree Celsius was reported from Khepupara yesterday (Thursday) and the minimum of 15.2 degree was reported from Srimangal.

The sun sets today Friday at 5.13 pm and rises tomorrow Saturday at 6.13 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
Dhaka	30.6	19.3
Chittagong	30.5	21.5
Rajshahi	29.8	18.0
Khulna	31.2	20.2
Cox's Bazar	30.0	21.2
Sylhet	29.4	17.8
Dinajpur	29.2	16.4
Barisal	31.0	20.0



Slums close to the lake near Hotel Sonargaon was dismantled yesterday.

—Star photo

Govt plans sink one tubewell for every 108 people : Salam

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar said here yesterday that the government was determined to carry out its development efforts despite numerous obstacles being created by the intriguers, reports BSS.

"We are pledge-bound to improve the socio-economic condition of the people. Our principal objective is to fulfill the basic needs of the people and we are carrying out tireless efforts to achieve this objective," he said while addressing the foundation laying function of Public Health Directorate building at Kakrail.

The Minister said the government had a plan to sink one tubewell for every 108 people in the rural areas by the year 2000.

The function was addressed also by Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye, Nurul Abedin, Joint Secretary of

Local Government Division, Amin Uddin Ahmed, Chief Engineer of Public Health Directorate and Siddiqur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer of Public Health Directorate.

Salam said the Public Health Directorate had been carrying out activities to meet the people's demands for safe drinking water and improve sanitation system.

He said 8,60,675 tubewells were installed in the rural areas while 44 per cent water supply coverage had been achieved in pousa areas through the construction of 25 iron removing plants, 104 high water reservoirs, 309 tubewells and water supply lines.

He said efforts were on to meet the water demand of the urban people through different development projects.

Salam said the problem of drinking water was being resolved through installation of pond sand filter, V S S T, S S T, and infiltration gallery.

Govt support to new hospitals in private sector assured

Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday said the government will be able to develop medicare facilities unless private entrepreneurs come forward to invest in health sector, reports UNB.

"Government cannot take all burdens of healthcare in any country... The health system in Bangladesh has always been public sector-oriented," Chowdhury said while addressing the ground breaking ceremony of a 300-bed modern hospital at Gulshan posh area yesterday afternoon.

He assured all possible government support to new hospitals in the private sector treating them as industry for the sake of developing country's existing medicare facilities.

The Health Minister praised the professional efficiency of Bangladeshi doctors abroad, saying they have the competence to render good medicare services, but lack of equipment and other basic facilities destroy their moral and make them frustrated.

He hoped that the hospital will play an effective role in the transfer of modern medical technology in this region

Int'l workshop on environment November 16

A four-day workshop on "The Impacts of Sea Level Rise in South Asian Sea Regions due to Global Warming" will be held in the city from November 16, its organisers said yesterday, reports UNB.

The workshop will hear the Bangladesh Case Study conducted by a number of organisations including National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI), SPARSO, Department of Meteorology, Survey of Bangladesh, BIWTA and the national universities.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) sponsored the study which has already been conducted in India and Pakistan.

Strike at BIT in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Nov 12: Classes could not be held at Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) here for the three consecutive day Wednesday as it JCD unit enforced a 72-hour strike demanding withdrawal of expulsion order of its three leaders, reports UNB.

Institute sources said three Jatnyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders have been expelled from the institute for their alleged involvement in violence on the campus.

The JCD leaders warned that they would be compelled to launch a greater movement if their demands were not met immediately.

According to the Academic Council of the institute, the authorities took the punitive action against the accused students on the basis of an enquiry report.

To Let

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Biswas condoles death of Khadija Khatun

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has expressed his deep condolence at the death of Khadija Khatun, the wife of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazul Haq, reports BSS.

In a message to her son AK Faizul Haq, the President said as the wife of the veteran people's leader Khadija had always showed sympathy to the hardship of poor and sufferings of the humanity. She was the source of inspiration for the great leader, he said.



Members of Lions Club of Dhaka Progoti greater addressing a press conference at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday.

Namaj-e-Janaza of Sadiq Ahmed Chowdhury today

Namaj-e-janaza of Sadiq Ahmed Chowdhury, retired Home Secretary of the government of Pakistan will be held today (Friday) after Juma prayer at Battul Mukaram Mosque, says a press release.

The burial will take place at the Banani graveyard. Qulhwani of Sadiq Ahmed Chowdhury will be held Saturday at his residence at 10/A Green Square, Green Road (adjacent to Dhaka Nursing Home) after Magreb prayer.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the Qulhwani.

'BDR will uphold tradition'

Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Major General Anwar Hossain yesterday expressed his satisfaction at the progress of BDR activities in protecting the border, preserving internal peace and discipline and curbing smuggling, reports BSS.

Addressing the BDR sector commanders and senior officials of the BDR headquarters here, Gen Hossain hoped that the BDR members would uphold their tradition.

Probe body formed

The government has constituted a one-member investigation committee with the District and Sessions Judge of Dinajpur A K M Mohammad Ali to enquire into the cause of unnatural death of District Controller of Food of Thakergon Rezaul Karim, reports BSS.

BJMC Advertisement Tender Notice

Man-made fibre pollutes environments: Use natural fibre—Jute

Sealed tenders are invited by Karim Jute Mills Ltd. from the bonafide Manufacturers/Stockists/Suppliers for supply of the following materials on the basis of delivery at Mill Stores.

(1) Hardware, (2) Hardware, (3) Printing & Stationery, (4) Loom Cambs, (5) Pressing Rollar Boss Rubberization.

All tenderers will have to deposit tender with Earnest Money in favour of Karim Jute Mills Ltd, in the shape of DD/Pay Order @Tk. 1% on quoted value, but not less than Tk 1,000/-(one thousand). No tender without Earnest Money will be accepted. The tender will be received up to 11-30 am on 18.11.92 and will be opened on the same day at 11.45 am at BJMC Zone Office, 99, Motijheel C/A (Karim Chamber), Dhaka & Mill Office, Demra, Dhaka in presence of the tenderers, if any.

Tender documents will be available except the date of opening of tender against payment of Tk 40.00 (forty) per set from the Controller (A&F) BJMC, Adamjee Court, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka & from the Deputy General Manager (A&F), Karim Jute Mills Ltd, Demra, Dhaka. The management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BJMC:1114
DFP (BA) 10803-5/11

APEX TANNERY LIMITED
65-66 MTIJHEEL C/A, DHAKA-1000.

NOTICE

The following Chartered Accountants have been proposed by some Share holders for appointment as Auditors for 1992-1993.

- M/S. HOWLADAR YUNUS & CO. : 67 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.
- M/S. SIDDIQUI WALI & CO. : 9/G Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
- M/S. RAHMAN THAKUR & CO. : 44 Naya Palton, Dhaka.

MANGING DIRECTOR

DPHE Tender Notice

গৃহস্থালী সকল কাজে হস্তচালিত নলকূপের পানি ব্যবহার করুন

Tenders are hereby invited from DPHE enlisted contractors/bonafide pump manufacturers/importers for the undermentioned works.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount of allotted money	Amount of earnest money	Time for completion of work
1.	Work of supplying 4 sets of 20 HP electric motor driven 15,000 gallons (67,000 liters) per hour capacity turbine pump sets for new tubewells under Special Project for interim water supply to Rajshahi City Corporation area.	Tk 7,70,000/=	Tk 15,400	15 days
2.	Work of supplying 15 HP 15,000 gallons per hour capacity submersible pump for new tubewells under Special Project for interim water supply to Rajshahi City Corporation area.	Tk 4,20,000/=	Tk 8,400/=	45 days

Tender schedule, specification etc. for the above work can be purchased up to 16-11-92 from the office of the undersigned and the office of the Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Underground Water Info & Dev Division, 686, North Shahjahanpur, Dhaka and will be received by both the offices up to 1.00 pm on 17-11-92 and opened at the office of the undersigned on the same day at 1-30 hrs in presence of the tenderers.

Abdur Rahman Mia
Executive Engineer,
Public Health Engineering, (M/E) Division,
Mohakhali, Dhaka.

DFP (G) 19360-5/11
G-1434