

Dhaka Day by Day

Bird Power

by Aasha Mehreen Amin



Gaging the enemy

They glare at each other with beady eyes of hatred. As the venom builds up in each opponent's breast the time closes in for the first attack. They prance about in circles as if in a trance as they dance the warriors dance. Then before the bat of an eyelid a blow is made, then a counter blow again and again until the enemy is defeated.

If this sounds like a boxing match this is not far from the truth. The only difference is that the fight is between two birds, roosters to be precise although their ferocity is not unlike two warriors in a bitter duel.

Cock fighting has been an age old tradition of Dhaka. Unofficially it has been used as a gambling device, a way to make quick bucks. Betting stakes can go up to one to two lakh takas making the owners of these remarkable birds all the more anxious to invest in training and care. Officially, cock fighting is a traditional sport that has become more and more organized over the years. The Bangladesh Ashli Morog Unnayan Shangstha for example, has been operating over 25 years and arranged both city and interdistrict matches all year round. Dhaka has so far always claimed the championship, says a member of the Shangstha proudly. "Our training is better. We buy birds from other committees but when we train them they become better fighters". Contestants come from as far as Brahmanbaria and Sylhet. This year the final championship contest will take place in mid December with a colour TV as the first prize, two in one as the second and two band radio's for third and fourth prizes.

The stars of the show, the birds are of a special variety known as 'Ashli' and are usually found in Brahmanbaria and Shorail. An 'Ashli' rooster can grow from three to four feet as high as a medium sized dog. The males are all born fighters and live out their lives with a natural hostility toward their own sex. Younger fighting cocks known as juniors are from 14 to 18 months old while the seniors are from two to four years old. The price tag on these birds can go from five to ten thousand taka with a monthly maintenance cost from Taka 150 to Taka 200.

Training starts from a very early stage and special diets and vitamins like B-50 are fed to build up stamina. Diets include eggs and even cooked meat and are kept secret so that one owner does not know what the other is feeding his bird. "But we have to make sure that the bird is not overfed", says an owner, "because the lighter the 'morog' the better the fighter". The heavier ones get tired very easily so weight must be controlled. Whoever heard of a bird with a weight problem?

The fight itself seems rather complicated with special rules imposed by the committee

to make the game more interesting and challenging. Fights can go up to three hours the record being 6 1/2 hours between two 'killers' 'Red Indian' and 'Gondar' (rhinoceros).

During the fight if one of the birds gets tired and its owner picks him up for a breather then a point is lost while the remaining bird gains a point. The birds fight with their feet which have long sharp talons that tear at the opponent's flesh. At the beginning of each game a bandage of damp cotton wool is tied around the ankles which have a protruding talon that can melt an opponent's eyes. If this happens the bird can no longer fight. So what happens to the bird? It lands up at someone's dinner table!

This time the fight is between Jubo Raaj - majestic in his red and black finery and New Chinese who is older and whose black and white coat has seen better days. They are at each others throats (literally) almost as soon as they are placed on the ground. The birds hit at each other with consecutive vicious blows with their lethal legs. Feathers are torn off as they furiously peck and scratch each other.

The two owners watch their proteges closely to determine points and constantly urge them on with unintelligible grunts and growls. After every few minutes the owners pick up the birds for a break. During this time the trainer tries to cool the bird using a small wet towel or blowing into its feathers. Sometimes a wet rag is shoved right through the bird's throat. This, assures a Shangstha member, is for the bird's benefit, so that it does not choke on the feathers it has swallowed during the fight.

After about another twenty minutes of continuous hits, scratches and bites the game is over and Jubo Raaj is the winner. Both birds look pooped enough to call it a day.

The onlookers show their appreciation with claps and whistles and one realizes that this is exclusively a man's world. The members of the committee are mainly traders and businessmen, with a few students and government workers. The secretary of the Shangstha, Shamsul Alam is of all things, a micro-biology lab instructor and an ardent enthusiast of this sport. He invites us to a charity match to be held on December 16th at the Mahakhali Malaria Staff Quarters.

Cock fighting in Dhaka is a lucrative sport for gamblers, but for many it is a tradition that has been kept alive for years. The sport has also preserved a species of birds that would otherwise have been extinct by now.

For the onlookers, however, the main concern is being entertained, and the game evokes enough excitement for this purpose. After all who doesn't like a little bit of blood and gore? Most men do.

JS working to solve issues thru' consensus: Speaker

The visiting Chinese parliamentary delegation was apprised of national policies and problems of Bangladesh in a meeting with parliamentarians at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

The Chinese lawmakers were particularly briefed on the functioning of parliamentary committees and their role in monitoring government activity and solving national problems.

The meeting, which lasted over two hours, was held in a very cordial atmosphere. Among others on the Bangladesh side, led by Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali, were Agriculture Minister M Majid-ul-Haq, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, Chief Whip Khandker Delwar Hossain, State Minister for Law Aminul Haq, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad

Azad, Whip Advocate Abdul Karim, Whip Ashraf Hossain and Ansar Ali Siddiqui, MP.

The Chinese side was led by the delegation leader Liao Hansheng, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress, and included Wang Wei, Caidong and Wang Jun.

Briefing the delegation on the political and parliamentary history of Bangladesh, the Speaker said the present parliament is unique as it was outcome of a universally acclaimed free and fair election.

The parliament, which is very balanced with a strong opposition, has already implemented its decision to reintroduce parliamentary democracy in the country, Razaque Ali said, adding it's now working to consolidate and institutionalise parliamentary democ-

racy and solve national problems through consensus.

He said 43 Parliamentary Standing Committees had been formed which were monitoring government activity regularly to make it accountable.

The main objective of the Bangladesh government, Shaikh Razaque said, is to achieve economic autarky, and it is working relentlessly to achieve this goal. Earlier, the leader of the Chinese delegation apprised the Bangladesh parliamentarians of the national policies and priorities of China and the role of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress in their implementation.

Later, members of the delegation visited parliament chamber and some parts of the parliament building.

Hayakawa meets PM

Japan-Bangladesh Ladies Cultural Society President Mrs Moteo Hayakawa called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

Begum Zia praised the contribution of Mrs Hayakawa and her late husband to promotion of friendship between the people of Bangladesh and Japan.

Mrs Hayakawa, who arrived here Saturday on a week-long visit to Bangladesh, hoped the cultural ties between the two countries would be strengthened in days ahead.

She recalled Begum Zia's visit to Japan with Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman. She met Begum Zia in late Hayakawa's constituency during the visit.

Construction work of 191 km coastal embankment begins

CHITTAGONG, Nov 23: Construction of 191 kilometre coastal embankment has started on November 15 at a total cost of Taka 176 crore in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts, reports BSS.

This was said by Water Development Board (WDB) Chairman Abdur Razzak while visiting embankment at south Halishahar here today. Razzak accompanied by Chief Engineer of WDB, other high officials and some representatives of consultant firms went round the embankment now under construction at south Halishahar and Patenga.

WDB Chairman said that construction works of the embankments would be completed by June, 1994. He said that another 200 km sea-fac-

ing embankment would be constructed during the next three years.

The WDB Chairman said over 300 kms embankments were washed away while another 650 kms were partly damaged by the tidal surge of April 29, 1991 in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Greater Noakhali areas.

He said that construction of the embankments was financed by World Bank, Japan and the Saudi government of the 123 kms embankment now under construction, 68 kms were in Kutubdia and Moheshkhali while the rest are in Chittagong and other places.

He said that the embankments would be 20 feet high and 180 feet wide.



Bangladesh Sanjukta Tanti Samity held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

Tanti Samity threatens sit-in strike

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Sanjukta Tanti Samity in a rally on Monday announced that it would hold sit-in strike in front of the commercial banks from January, 1993 if their 17-point demands are not met by December.

The rally held in front of Jatiya Press Club presided over by Muklesur Rahman of the Samity, Suranjit Sengupta, MP, addressed the rally as chief guest.

The rally urged the government to accept the demands mentioned in a memorandum submitted to the State Minister for Textiles.

The speakers in the rally also demanded strict measures to check smuggling and asked the people to boycott foreign goods.

The rally also announced its plan to hold talks with different political parties, Sramik Karmachari Otkya Parishad (SKOP) and other professionals on the problems in weaving sector.

DUJ Secy's father dead

Sundar Ali Khan, father of the General Secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Altaf Mahmud, died yesterday afternoon at his Dhaka village home in Galachipa under Patuakhali district, reports BSS.

A renowned social worker and philanthropist, Khan had established many social organisations including Sundar Ali Khan Madrasa, a mosque and a school at his village.

He left five sons and two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Meanwhile, the Executive Committee of DUJ has condoned the death of the father of Altaf Mahmud.

The meeting held with DUJ president Shahajam Meah in the chair at the union office, expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

The namaz-e-Janaza of Khan will be held today and he will be buried at the family graveyard.

Weather

Night temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Tuesday) says dry weather will prevail over the country with partly cloudy sky over the northern part of Bangladesh.

Met office says night temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 5.11 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6.20 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	9am	6pm
Dhaka	30.0	16.3	72	67
Chittagong	29.5	20.2	77	75
Rajshahi	30.0	14.4	82	74
Khulna	30.8	17.8	74	76
Cox's Bazar	29.5	20.0	69	62
Sylhet	30.2	18.5	98	61
Dinajpur	29.8	14.7	84	74
Barisal	30.4	16.4	82	82

Commemorative stamps on Mahasthangar

Bangladesh postal department will issue a set of four commemorative stamps each valued at Taka 10 on November 30 on Mahasthangar, according to a PID source here yesterday, reports BSS.

A first-day cover worth Taka five will be released and a special canceller will be used on the occasion.

The commemorative stamps and the cover will be issued simultaneously from all main post offices including four GPOs of the country. The stamps will be issued from all other post offices of the country at a later date.

Appointment

Director at the Prime Minister's office Ataur Rahman has been appointed Counselor (Labour) in Saudi Capital Riyadh, reports UNB.

Ismail Jobiullah, Private Secretary to the Communications Minister, has been appointed First Secretary (Labour) in Kuala Lumpur, said a government source yesterday.

JS receives Chinese gifts

Parliament yesterday received some office articles as gift from the Standing Committee of National People's Congress of China, reports UNB.

The gift, a manifestation of friendship between the peoples of the two countries, includes a telephoning switchboard, five micro computers, two laser printers, two duplicators and spareparts.

Shi Guobao, Director at the Foreign Affairs Department of the Chinese National People's Congress, signed a certificate in this regard on behalf of NPC and Abdus Shahid, Joint Secretary at the Parliament Secretariat, signed it for JS, said an official press release.

Matrimonial

Handsome Computer Programmer (28) educated and employed in USA needs impressive bride from educated family. A girl already in USA or expected soon preferable. Box No-S-326 C/o The Daily Star House No-11, Road No-3, Dharmodi R/A, Dhaka.

Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Ltd.
CORRIGENDUM TO
International Tender Notice

In the notice inviting tender for import on C&F (G) Chittagong/Benapole basis under any suitable source (1) PD-11/KCC/250 & 251/257 (F) Linalyl Acetate and Anethol 21°/22° and (2) PD-11/KCC/108 & 146/260 (F) Potassium Hydroxide, the time for receiving the tender on 21-12-92 and 22-12-92 should be read as "up to 11.00 am" instead of "up to 1.00 am," as inadvertently published in this paper on 22-11-92 & 23-11-92.

D-635

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. MAHA BHUM V-132 and ex. M. V. PIYA BHUM V-258 from Bangkok, ex. M. V. ORANJE V-8006 from Moji, ex. M. V. OCEAN SIRIUS V-46B from Karachi, ex. M. V. HANSA CARRIER V-02156 from Kcclung, ex. M. V. KARAMA V-18243 from Rotterdam, ex. M. V. THAMES V-14345 from Hongkong and ex. M. V. RHINE MARU V-25395 from Kcclung have been relayed to M. V. NGS RANGER V-3992 Import Rotation No. 892/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 26-11-92 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.
103, AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA, CHITTAGONG.
AS AGENTS: MITSUI O.S.K. LINES LTD., TOKYO.
PHONES: 503317, 50068/88.

BCIC Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিয়ারনে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Khulna Newsprint Mills Ltd., Town Khalishpur, Khulna invites sealed tender No. PD-32. 130/92-93 for Hiring of Barge Suitable for Carrying Sweet Water from up Stream with/without tug boat. Tender schedule will be opened on 30-11-1992 at 3-00 PM. Tender schedule will be available on payment of Tk. 25.00 per set from (1) KNM Ltd. (2) BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha, Dhaka-2 and (3) BCIC Branch Office, 6 Agrabad, Chittagong. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC 1010-9/11
DFP (BA) 10903-10/11 G-1449

RHD Short Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed tenders in BD Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the Special Category RHD Enlisted contractor as per financial limit and territorial jurisdiction for the following work under Tangail Road Division, Tangail.

Tender Notice No	Name of Work	Estimated Amount	Earnest Money	Time Allowed
36/Tangail Road Division. 1992-93	For Construction of 100'60 m. long Bailey bridge over RCC abutment and pier on Jhenai River near Jawail Bazar at 8th KM of Gopalpur-Jagunnathgong Road during the year.	Tk. 37,09,361/=	2% of Estimated Amount.	120 (One hundred twenty) days

- Name of Offices of availability of tender: Office of all the Executive Engineer (RHD), under Mymensingh Road Circle, Mymensingh/Executive Engineer (RHD); Planning and Programming Division, Dhaka/Preliminary Engineering Division, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Dhaka Road Construction Division-III, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (RHD), Feder Road Improvement Project, Tangail and all the Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), under Tangail Road Division up to 29-11-92 during office hours.
- Name of the Office for receiving tender bids: Addl. Chief Engineer (RHD), Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Mymensingh/Planning and Design Circle, Dhaka/Project Control Circle, Dhaka/Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka and Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Tangail up to 12-30 pm on 30-11-92 and will be opened on the same day at 12-45 pm in presence of the contractors who remain present.

Md Harunur Rashid
Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Tangail

DFP (G)19918-16/11
G-1497

Tender Notice

No 106(9)/Engg Dated : 22/11/92

University of Dhaka: Sealed tenders in Dhaka University form "Tender for works" are hereby invited from the enlisted contractors (Bldg/Furniture) of Dhaka University for the undermentioned works and will be received by the undersigned up to 12 Noon on the dates mentioned against each work and opened on the same day at 1215 pm in presence of the contractors who may remain present. Contractors will have to deposit as earnest money a sum of taka as stated below in Demand Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh. Specification and other particulars may be had from office of the undersigned on all working days except on the date fixed for submitting the tender after depositing the cost of tender forms and schedule as stated below against each work to the Janata Bank, TSC branch (non-refundable) after showing the necessary enlistment papers endorsed by the undersigned. Contractors should write the name of works & their firm's name on the envelope clearly.

Sl No	Name of Works	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Price of Tender Form	Time Allowed for Completion of Work	Opening Date
1.	Repairing the old furniture in the different Office, Deptt & Institute of Dhaka University (Zone-III)	Tk 1,58,856/-	Tk 3177/-	Tk 100/-	45 days	5th Dec '92
2.	Repairing of broken furniture of different Office & Institute of Dhaka University (Zone-IV)	Tk 1,24,996/-	Tk 2,500/-	Tk 100/-	45 days	5th Dec '92
3.	Repairing of broken furniture in the Classroom/Office of Dhaka University (Zone-1)	Tk 1,11,520/-	Tk 2230/-	Tk 100/-	45 days	5th Dec '92
4.	Addition & alteration work in the TV room of AF Rahman Hall to convert into Office room of the Provost Office, Dhaka University.	Tk 39,833/-	Tk 800/-	Tk 30/-	15 days	2nd Dec '92

Executive Engineer (3)
University of Dhaka

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