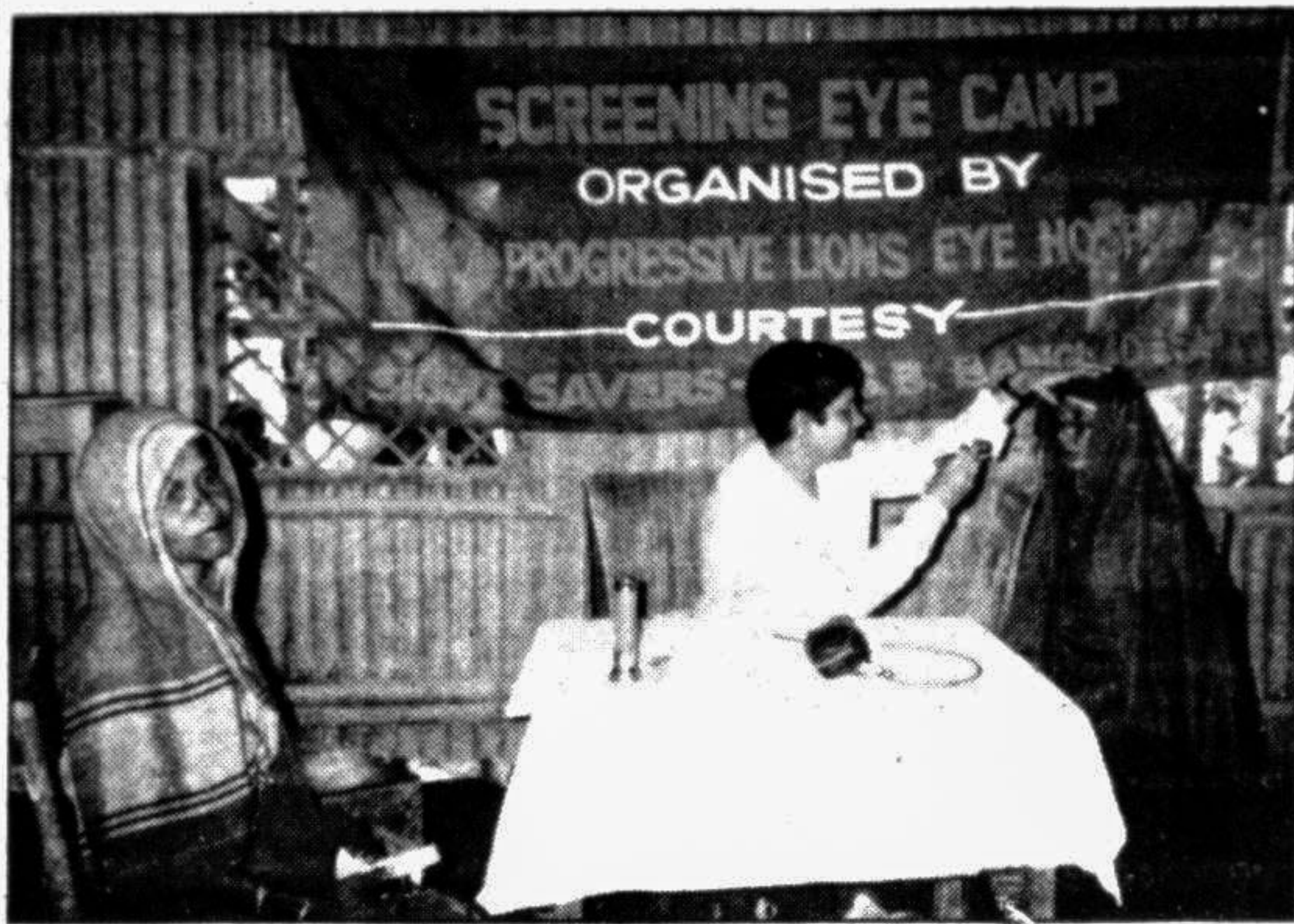


Dhaka Day by Day

Accommodating the Disabled

by Rahat Fahmida



Extending service to regain sight.

It is the International Day of Disabled Persons as announced by the United Nations General Assembly this year. The Ministry of Social Welfare has taken a programme today to emphasise equal participation of the disabled in the society. This meeting will be held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium, with Minister for Social Welfare, Tariqul Islam as the chief guest. Begum Sarwari Rahman, state minister for Social Welfare will be the special guest. Eminent workers, from the 16 different non-government organisations (NGO), who are working only for the disabled, will have a chance to put forward their plans.

About 300 million disabled people live in developing countries and only one per cent of these have access to basic health, education and adequate sanitation services. With currently escalating population growth rates, poverty, accidents and armed conflicts, these figures will increase in the years to come.

Slogans like 'Education for all', 'Full participation by all members of the society' and 'Integration of the handicapped into the community' appear in the mass media now and then. They may be conclusions at seminars, objectives of organisations or policy of the government. Unfortunately the slogans remain as statements, but implementation of such programmes are rarely observed. The reason may be that they are too ambitious or too resource demanding, sub-goals and step-by-step implementation have not been planned carefully enough, or perhaps conservative attitudes among people create barriers.

Training is the key for the welfare of the people. If such a programme is going to be successful, the handicapped cannot be excluded since they represent about 19 per cent of the population. Remaining neglected means that they will be an obstacle for general development, instead of a contributory factor.

Prejudice and discrimination result from social, economic and cultural factors. Hence one of the major achievements of the United

Nations Decade of Disabled, starting from 1981, increased public awareness of disability issues among policy makers, planners, politicians, service providers, parents and disabled persons themselves.

Public awareness campaigns at the national level were undertaken in a number of ways and included intensive media and public education programmes, as well as national events and commemorative days and weeks focusing on people with disabilities. These activities, though not enough considering the percentage of the problem in this country, have actually helped to achieve positive changes in attitude among the general public. People are aware of their responsibility to society in order to remove barriers and obstacles through full participation.

Disabled women are especially disadvantaged in job market, as they are a silent minority without effective pressure groups. In the years ahead these issues would require urgent attention of governments, non-government organisations and organizations of disabled persons.

The year 1992 marks the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, a period which had laid the foundations for further development. This year was considered to be used as a transition point to take stock of what has been learnt over the Decade and put into practice new approaches. Now is the time to build upon the awareness raised throughout the decade and turn this into comprehensive disability programmes to further integrate disabled persons into society.

However, the goal will have little chance to be reached without a total change of attitudes of the society. Campaigns and slogans are important for a wide impact. People should not hesitate to start personal field-work in order to create a society where all inhabitants are accepted on equal terms and are given a role to play for the development of the country.

'AIDS virus won't spread if people get education'

Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday said motivation and awareness programme on the harmful effects of AIDS will also be included in the on-going awareness programmes undertaken by the Women's Affairs Department, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a discussion meeting in observance of the International AIDS Day '92 at the Women's Affairs Department here.

The meeting was also addressed by Chairman of Jatiya Mohila Sangstha Selina Rahman MP, consultant of World Health Organisation Jesudasan, Medical Officer of Women's Support Centre Dr Zinat Shahnam and Dr Rafiq Hossain.

The key note paper was presented by Programme Manager of National Prevention Committee on AIDS Dr Mostafa Kamal.

The minister said AIDS virus would not be spread out in the country if the higher and lower classes people were educated and made aware about the evil effects of AIDS.

Later, a video film on AIDS was shown. Social problems of the AIDS virus carriers were depicted in the video film.

Khairul Alam's chehlum held

The chehlum of late Photo Journalist Khairul Alam Khabir was held yesterday at his AGB colony residence after Asr prayers, reports BSS.

His colleagues, relatives and a number of friends, well-wishers and the local people attended the chehlum.

Abul Kashem Majumdar, Editor of the Daily Samachar, for which Khairul Alam was working, handed over a cheque of Taka 25 thousand to the wife of the deceased, Subarna Akhtar, and son Anupam on this occasion. The father of the late journalist Abdul Barak Akhand and mother Akhand were present.

Anniversary of Shafiul Azam's death tomorrow

The first death anniversary of former minister S M Shafiul Azam will be observed tomorrow (Friday), a press release said, reports BSS.

On this occasion Kargali Bhoj, Quran khwani and milad mahfil will be held at the village home at Fattekhari, Chittagong.

Mrs Shafiul Azam requests all friends and well-wishers to pray for the peace of the departed soul.

Nirmul body programmes to subvert SAARC summit: Huda

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said programmes announced by the Ghatik-Dalal Nirmul committee on December 8 and 10 were against the national interest and were designed to subvert the forthcoming SAARC summit, reports BSS.

He said the committee was trying to create a sorry state of affairs by its programmes at a time when the South Asian leaders would discuss many important issues for the betterment of the region at the 7th SAARC summit here.

The Information Minister was taking part at a discussion on "Mass Uprising of '90" organised by the Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum's Dhaka unit at the National Press Club auditorium here.

With the Dhaka unit's Convenor Advocate Fazlur Rahman Khan in the chair, the discussion was also participated by State Minister for Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Aminul Huq, Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas MP, Chairman of the BSS Board of Directors and Joint Convenor of the Forum Advocate Julmat Ali Khan.



Thursday

Morning session

BTV will telecast live the cricket match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka from Dhaka Stadium at 9:30 am.

Evening session

5.00 Opening announcement
Al-Quran, Programme summary
5.10 News in Bangla
5.20 Recitation from the Geceta
5.30 School debate
6.30 Open University
7.05 World Disabled Day
7.25 Jiboner Alo
8.00 News in Bangla
8.40 Drama of the week
10.00 News in English
10.30 Dipita Chetana
10.55 China Beach
11.30 Khabar/The News
11.40 Friday's programme summary.



A seminar titled 'Acute Renal Failure: Background and Duty' organised by the Department of Paediatrics was held at Dr Milon auditorium of IPGMR yesterday. — Story on Page 1.

Anniversary of Jagadish Bose's birth observed

The 134th birth anniversary of Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, a world famous scientist, was observed through a discussion meeting at the Biswa Shahitya Kendra here yesterday evening, reports BSS.

Dr. M A Wazed Mia, an eminent nuclear physicist was the chief guest on the occasion.

Presided over by Professor Humayun Azad of Dhaka University, the function was addressed by Mahmudul Huq, Dr. Ramshwar Mondal, Dhaka University, Journalist Nurul Huda and Jainal Abedin.

Speakers at the meeting paid tributes to the memory of Scientist Bose, who was born at village Rari Khal under Sreenagar Thana in Munshiganj.

VSO Director arrives today

David Green International Director, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) arrives here today (Thursday), says a press release.

David Green, himself a VSO worker will be on his first visit to Bangladesh.

During his stay, Green will call on the DG NGO Affairs Bureau and the British High Commissioner in Bangladesh.

'Help develop disciplined water transport system'

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday said Government would take all necessary measures to ensure security, safety and discipline in inland water transport, reports BSS.

He called for all out cooperation of concerned authorities to take necessary action.

Stressing the need for smooth and safe river transportation, the Minister assured the delegates to solve their problems as early as possible.

Home Secretary Manzoorul-Karim, Director General of Ansar and VDP Major General Syed Badruzzaman, Chairman BIWTA and Additional IG of Police Kazi Golam Rahman were present at the meeting.

Referring to the alleged complaint about the incompetence and irresponsibility of the part of the ansars, the



These children and adults posed with the General Manager of Sonargaon Hotel Andrew McBurnie (centre) after being awarded certificates on completion of their respective swimming course. This was the last course for '92 for children and adults.

Follow directives of Islam, Mannan asks students

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan has called upon the students to be keen in acquiring religious knowledge for making themselves ideal and true citizens of the nation, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest milad mahfil and discussion meeting at Mirpur Girls' Ideal Laboratory Institute organised by the students union of the college.

Presided over by the Principal of the college Mrs Razia Hossain, the function was addressed, among others, by the president of Dhaka City Chhatradal Abul Khair Bhuyyan, general secretary of Dhaka City Chhatradal Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, vice-president of Chhatradal Sangsad Amena Begum Mina, general secretary of Chhatradal Sangsad Hafiza Alditar Poly and other student leaders of the Dal.

The State Minister while underscoring the need and importance of education said that the students should do their utmost to reflect the teachings and ideals of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM) for developing all sorts of human qualities in them.

He urged the students to practice and follow the code and directives of Islam for saving them from social and moral degradation.

JS body on Social Welfare meet held

The 11th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Welfare Ministry yesterday underscored the need for strengthening and expansion of the project for proper attention to the street children, reports UNB.

The meeting held at the Sangsad Bhavan with State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman in the chair also reviewed activities of community development programme undertaken for the welfare and rehabilitation of the street children.

Members of the committee Nizamuddin Khan, Begum Rosy Kabir, Begum Selina Shahid, Mokhlesur Rahman and Mohammad Yusuf were present in the meeting, says a PID handout.

Project cultural heritage, Biswas tells JASSAS men

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon the cultural activists to project country's rich cultural heritage and the spirit of Bangladesh nationalism among the youths, reports BSS.

The President was talking to a 14-member delegation of the Mohammadpur branch of Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASSAS) led by General Secretary of the city unit Fayez Ullah Fayez, when they called on him at Bangabhaban.

He recalled the dedicated endeavours of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman to build a dignified nation and asked the youths to contribute their mite in the ongoing reconstruction activities to make the nation self-reliant.

He said, country's future depended on the proper use of time and full utilisation of the talents and potentials of the younger generation.

He asked them to organise the youth force to work unitedly for the nation building activities and to achieve its speedy development.

Body formed to examine BCS (Admn) cadre

A six-member committee has been formed to examine the reorganisation of posts under 9 to 6 scales of Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration) cadre and to consider other related issues, reports BSS.

The Cabinet Secretary has been made Convenor of the committee. Other members of the committee are: Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister, Comptroller General of Accounts and Secretaries finance establishment and law, justice and parliamentary affairs.

The committee will submit its recommendation to the government within two weeks.

DPRK to help explore mineral resources

North Korea will assist Bangladesh in the exploration of mineral resources, including coal, hard rock and limestone, and also cooperate in the field of irrigation, agriculture and water conservancy, reports UNB.

The assurance was conveyed when the outgoing Ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kang Dal Son, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon.

The Ambassador also assured his country's cooperation to Bangladesh in setting up a cement factory.

Begum Zia appreciated the valuable contribution of Ambassador Kang Dal Son in cementing the traditional and cordial relations between the two countries.

The Ambassador extended a special invitation to Begum Zia

from the North Korean President Kim Il Sung.

Accepting the invitation, the Prime Minister said she will be visiting North Korea at a convenient time next year. The existing friendly relation between Bangladesh and Korea will deepen further, she said.

Begum Zia mentioned the special friendly relation between Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and North Korean President Kim Il Sung and said it was during the period of Ziaur Rahman that the relation expanded.

The Prime Minister welcomed the cooperation of Korea in Bangladesh's march towards socio-economic emancipation of the people.

Begum Zia through the Ambassador conveyed good wishes to President Kim Il Sung and Prime Minister Yon Hyong Muk.

Weather

Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Khulna and Dhaka divisions. The Met office forecast yesterday (Wednesday).

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the Rajshahi division during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday).

Night temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country, according to weather report.

The minimum of 15 degree Celsius was recorded in Dinajpur yesterday and the maximum of 27.2 degree Celsius was reported from Bogra.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 5.11 pm and rises tomorrow at Friday 6.26 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	6pm
Dhaka	24.2	18.6	77	80
Chittagong	24.5	18.2	98	75
Rajshahi	26.3	15.6	82	81
Khulna	26.2	18.5	92	84
Cox's Bazar	24.5	18.5	96	81
Sylhet	21.0	17.0	85	98
Dinajpur	26.2	15.0	80	81
Barisal	26.0	18.5	62	90

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