

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Basking in Winter Sun

By A. S. M. Nurunnabi

In a tropical country like ours, we feel uncomfortable for the most part of the year when exposed to the sun for sometime. Thus the sun is looked upon here with unfriendly eyes. Of course, there are breaks in such attitude during the prolonged spell of rainy days when one pines for the sun with all heart.

The situation, however, dramatically changes with the onset of winter. As mercury drops, our craving for sunshine concomitantly registers a rise. The welcome accorded to sunshine becomes more general and pervasive in winter when its blissful warmth casts a spell on everybody. We then tend to forget how punishing sunshine can be in other seasons.

In colder climes where the sun is not associated with a sultry and torrid existence, the outlook is consistently different. There when the sun breaks through a dull weather, waves of excitement and exhilaration sweep far and wide. And if the spell of sunshine promises to be a little durable, there

are few souls who are not affected by a pull to seek some open space, park or seaside to take full advantage of it. In summer there, the people seem to go berserk, as it were, in their bid to feel the warmth of the sun. Of course, in our climate, we do not become so enthusiastic with sunshine even in winter. Still there comes a marked change in our outlook, food and dress. An urge for outdoor activities seize even the introverts. For the extroverts the opportunities are unlimited. This is the season for picnics with family and friends. Even a lonely stroll in balmy sunshine can be rewarding experience. Also lounging at a lonely spot in the open can instil in you feelings of fulfillment. Perhaps the mellow sunshine of winter leaves none us

untouched. That is the time we feel like letting ourselves go with gay abandon, throwing the tensions of life to the winds. During a cold spell, basking in the sun is a common sight at any park, open space or verandah. For the poor, particularly the children and the old, without the protection of warm clothes, the sunshine is like a god-send.

I have a friend who harbours an eccentric attitude towards sunshine. In summer he hates sunshine. But in winter, a marked change comes over him. He then worships the sun, as it were. On winter holidays, he will set forth from his home, equipped with a picnic basket containing his breakfast and a small transistor radio. His destination is a nearby large park. After a spell of morning constitutional, he will sit down on a park bench at a lonely spot and leisurely begin to partake of his breakfast, accompanied by the music of the transistor radio. That is

his idea of passing a pleasant morning on a winter holiday. Mattin, a labourer from Comilla, sometimes takes a break from his work to enjoy the winter sun. Rafique, a rickshawpuller from Barisal, tells the same story. But they regret that those who have to earn their living by manual work can ill afford to spend much time resting in sunshine. They say that from the point of view of their occupations, winter is much preferable to summer, when rigours of work tell more on their health.

There is, however, no denying that those who have the time to lounge in the open in the balmy warmth of winter sunshine present a quiet and comforting picture, exerting a sort of soothing influence on the taut nerves of the city dwellers deprived of such breaks.



When the heat is killing

## Dhaka benefitted from Chinese cooperation: Hafiz

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Mirza Golam Hafiz on Sunday said China was always a trusted friend of the Third World countries with its bountiful cooperation towards their economic development and political stability, reports BSS.

He said, Bangladesh as a poor country had greatly benefitted from the Chinese cooperation towards all disciplines of development as well as political stability and also consolidation of the country's independence and sovereignty.

The Law Minister was addressing a farewell reception given to the outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Chen Songlu, by Bangladesh-China Motre Samity at a Chinese restaurant in Dhaka.

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, State Minister for Finance Mohammad Mujibur Rahman and samity's Secretary

General Nazmul Haq Nannu also addressed the function.

Mirza Golam Hafiz, who is also the chairman of the samity, said the Chinese people and government were really good friends of Bangladesh with their continued help in our efforts to build a self-reliant country. "Both of us got independence through struggle. But our system of economy is different and China's relentless help and assistance to our development efforts speaks of a rock-solid friendship built on mutual respect," he said.

Mirza Hafiz termed the outgoing Chinese Ambassador, Chen Songlu, as a proven friend of Bangladesh and said Bangladesh had received a good and commendable package of development assistance and help from the Chinese government during his tenure here.

Chen Songlu thanked the Bangladesh government for its sincere cooperation and support to him during his tenure here and hoped the existing friendly relations between the two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

He also appreciated the role of Bangladesh-China Motre Samity in its efforts to consolidate Bangla-China friendship and said both the countries had close cooperation in all fields. "We will work for peace and development in Asia and the world as a whole," he said.

Chen Songlu said his government has always stood by the third world countries and it would continue to grow in the years to come.

Referring to his stay in Bangladesh, Chen Songlu said he had really sweet days in Bangladesh which would remain as happy memory in his life.

"I assure you I will try to visit Bangladesh once again to see my friends and the friendly people here," he said.

The Works Minister hoped that the friendship between the two countries would continue to grow further to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman, who is also a member of the samity, said the active cooperation of the Chinese government had helped a lot in consolidating Bangladesh's independence and sovereignty.

Nazmul Haq Nannu said China was always opposed to aggression and imperialism and its policy had continuously acted towards helping the poor countries like Bangladesh.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over a meeting of Parliamentary Committee of BNP in the conference room of Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. (Story on Page 1) — PID photo

## Ban extra-constitutional seizure of power

Noted educationist Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui yesterday called for putting a ban on seizing power by extra-constitutional means and in admissibility of any act to remove an elected government under any plea, by any means outside the provisions of the constitution, reports BSS.

He also asked for guaranteeing the preservation of the fundamental rights of the people, ensuring the independence and neutrality of the judiciary and of the rule of law and cancellation of all laws opposed to the fundamental rights.

Prof Siddiqui, Professor of English of Jahangirnagar University and a former advisor to the interim government, was delivering the foundation day lecture 1993 of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh on "a nation's quest for a civil society" here.

Chaired by its President Prof A K M Nurul Islam, the 41st founding anniversary function of the Asiatic Society was attended by scholars, academics and researchers.

Prof Siddiqui pleaded for ensuring a free and autonomous media and an unfettered and uninterrupted flow in governance in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, recognising the sovereignty of the people.

Referring to the joint declaration of the three alliances in November 1990, Prof Siddiqui said it was a short-term agenda for the interim government and the interim government has acted upon it to the general satisfaction of the people. There was also an agenda for the parliament and the democratic government-to-be, he said.

He stressed the need for implementing the remaining part of the 'agenda of action' envisaged in the joint declaration, terming it "the foundation of the future civil society."

Prof Siddiqui said the present Jatiya Sangsad has a task before it, a historic responsibility that the people have reposed on it, expressed and articulated in the declaration.

Prof Siddiqui said political culture of a people has a history of growth over many years and it has a tenacity of its own to survive and to resist change.

He expressed the hope that with the continued exercise of democratic rights and with democratic institutions like local bodies allowed to function, some of the flaws of political culture will disappear.

Prof Siddiqui also suggested restoration of the country's constitution to its original shape, saying deviations from the original constitution — the fourth, the fifth and the eighth amendments in particular — represent at three major wounds inflicted on the supreme law of the land.

About the divergent views on the national identity, he said, "I would leave the matter to be decided by the people outside the sphere of law, because I think the national psyche will choose for itself, induce course of time."

## Jobs under international organisations

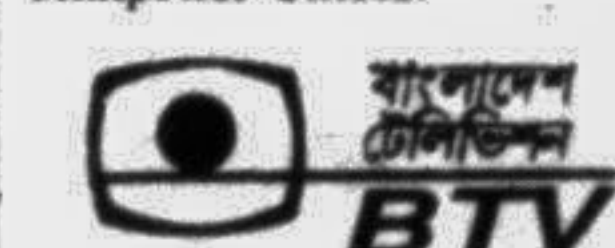
Some international organisations have invited applications for filling up certain vacancies at their disposal, says a PID handout.

Name of the organizations along with the post titles and last date of receiving applications by the head offices of concerned organizations are given below.

International Telecommunication Union: Engineer (Head of the Data Treatment Section) (P-4) January 21; Chief, Publication Composition Service (P-3) January 22.

World Meteorological Organization: Chief, World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme Division (P-5); Senior Scientific Officer (P-5) January 31.

Further details of those vacancies, duty stations and procedure of applications will be available with the Ministry of Establishment, other ministries/divisions, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, District Labour and Manpower Offices.



**Monday**

5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme Summary

5.10 News in Bangla

5.25 Cartoon: I Want to Know

5.35 Sports programme

6.30 Open University

7.05 TV Debate

8.00 News in Bangla

8.30 Shabar Jonnya Shabtha

9.00 Barnali

10.00 News in English

10.30 Drama Series: Oshin

11.30 Khabar/The News

11.45 Closing

## Biswas, Khaleda greet President of Brazil

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday felicitated Itamar Augusto Cautiero Franco on his assumption of the high office of President of Brazil, reports BSS.

In a message to Itamar Augusto, President Biswas expressed hope that the existing close cooperation and friendly ties between the two countries would be further strengthened.

In another message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday felicitated Itamar Augusto Cautiero Franco on his assumption of the office of President of Brazil.

In a message the Prime Minister hoped that she could continue to work in close cooperation, with Augusto in building and strengthening the friendly relations existing between the two countries and in promoting the cause of international peace and understanding.

## Rohingyas will never be pushed back against will: Lutfor

State Minister for Relief Lutfor Rahman Khan has said that the Rohingya refugees sheltered in Bangladesh would certainly go back to their homeland but they would never be pushed back against their will, reports BSS.

He said this while presiding over a special meeting on Rohingya refugees and their repatriation at the conference room of Cox's Bazar Circuit House yesterday.

Shajahan Chowdhury MP, Mustaque Ahmed MP, Ishaque Mian MP, Rohingya Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Golam Murtaza and concerned refugee camp in-charge officers attended the meeting.

The State Minister said the government had given shelter to the refugees in its land only on humanitarian ground but it was very much hard for Bangladesh to continue it for long period. He said, more than Taka ten crore is being spent per month for the refugees.

Khan directed the concerned officials to take necessary measures for quick repatriation of the refugees who were interested to go back to their homeland willingly.

He lauded the role played by the officials and said they were not only discharging their official responsibilities but also serving the distressed and oppressed people. Khan called upon them to devote themselves more for the humanity. It was disclosed in the meeting that so far a total of 7,046 refugees had been repatriated out of about two and a half lakh.

Earlier, the State Minister visited some refugee camps. He talked to the refugees and enquired about their welfare and other related matters.

## 141 arrested on various charges

Police rounded up 141 people from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges, a DMP press release said yesterday, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, one was wanted criminal, one accused of murder, two on charge of robbery and five for stealing.

## Attack on Hanif resented

BCS General Education Association has expressed its deep concern and resentment over the recent attack on Prof. Mohammad Hanif, Principal of Barisal BM University College by the miscreants in connection with the students union election of the college, an association press release said here yesterday, reports BSS.

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## Kamrul Hassan dead

Md Kamrul Hassan, a sportsman, sports journalist and a cricket commentator of the country, died of a heart attack in the early hours of yesterday at his residence at Elephant Road here. He was about 42, reports BSS.

His Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Baitul Mukarrami National Mosque after Zohar prayer which was attended, among others, by Commerce Minister MK Anwar and large number of sports personalities. He was laid to rest at Hanani graveyard.

Hassan left behind his father advocate Kalimuddin Ahmed, a former member of the then East Pakistan Assembly, wife, two minor children, two brothers and a host of well-wishers to mourn his untimely death.

**Death condoled**  
Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP of the Awami League has expressed his deep shock at the sudden death of Kamrul Hassan.

In his condolence message, Hasan, a friend of the late cricketer, said that the news of the passing away of Kamrul Hassan was a bolt from the blue to his friends.

The AL MP prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

## 2 injured in road mishap

Two officials of Radio Bangladesh were injured in a road accident near the office of Public Works Division at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar last noon (Sunday), hospital sources said, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Chief Drama Producer Saiful Islam and Assistant Controller (News) Nazrul Islam.

Witnesses said they met the accident as their mishuk turned turtle after being knocked down by a speeding mini bus from behind.

Saiful Islam was admitted in Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition while Nazrul Islam was given first aid.

## Weather

### No change in night temperature

By Staff Correspondent.

Temporary thick fog is likely to prevail over the country till 9 am today (Monday) commencing from Sunday midnight, meteorological office forecast.

The fog will reduce the surface vision to 500 metre less over the river basin and adjoining area.

However, dry weather will persist over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday. Night temperature will remain mainly unchanged over the country during the period.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 5-25 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6-43 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	25.7	12.5	95	79
Chittagong	26.0	13.2	100	67
Rajshahi	26.3	9.4	97	86
Khulna	27.5	10.6	100	71
Barisal	27.0	11.0	100	78
Cox's Bazar	27.0	15.0	100	77
Sylhet	23.6	13.5	96	73
Dinajpur	21.7	9.8	95	88

The lowest temperature of the day was in Rajshahi.