

Dhaka Day by Day

Mushroom gaining popularity but ...

by Masud Arif

The number of mushroom lovers is gradually increasing in Dhaka while its producers are unable yet to market their delicious and nutritious produce successfully. Mushroom, which is an excellent diet for the diabetics and bulky persons contains Folic acid and helps prevention of Anaemia. It is supposed to be an antidote to cancer, experts say. Though mushroom has not yet been introduced in Bangladesh, it is consumed in large quantities in different parts of the world. Experts feel that apart from its nutritious value, it can earn a lot of foreign currency through export.

Sometimes (mushroom) is found in some posh markets in Dhaka costing about Taka 150 for a fresh one kilogram or a dry 100 grams packet. But it is served in the expensive hotels and restaurants in the city. Meanwhile, some organisations are also offering home service to promote mushroom in the country.

Generally two types of mushroom — Oyster and Straw are being produced in our country presently. The government took initiative to introduce and popularise mushroom in early eighties. Later some Japanese experts also came to Bangladesh and trained some local people associated with agriculture on mushroom cultivation. At the time a mushroom culture centre was also established under the supervision of the Government's Agriculture Department at Sobhanbag in Savar which started cultivation from 1985.

The Sobhanbag Culture Centre is now mainly supplying the mother seed of mushroom to some interested non-government organisations (NGO), nearby villagers and some enthusiasts in Dhaka.

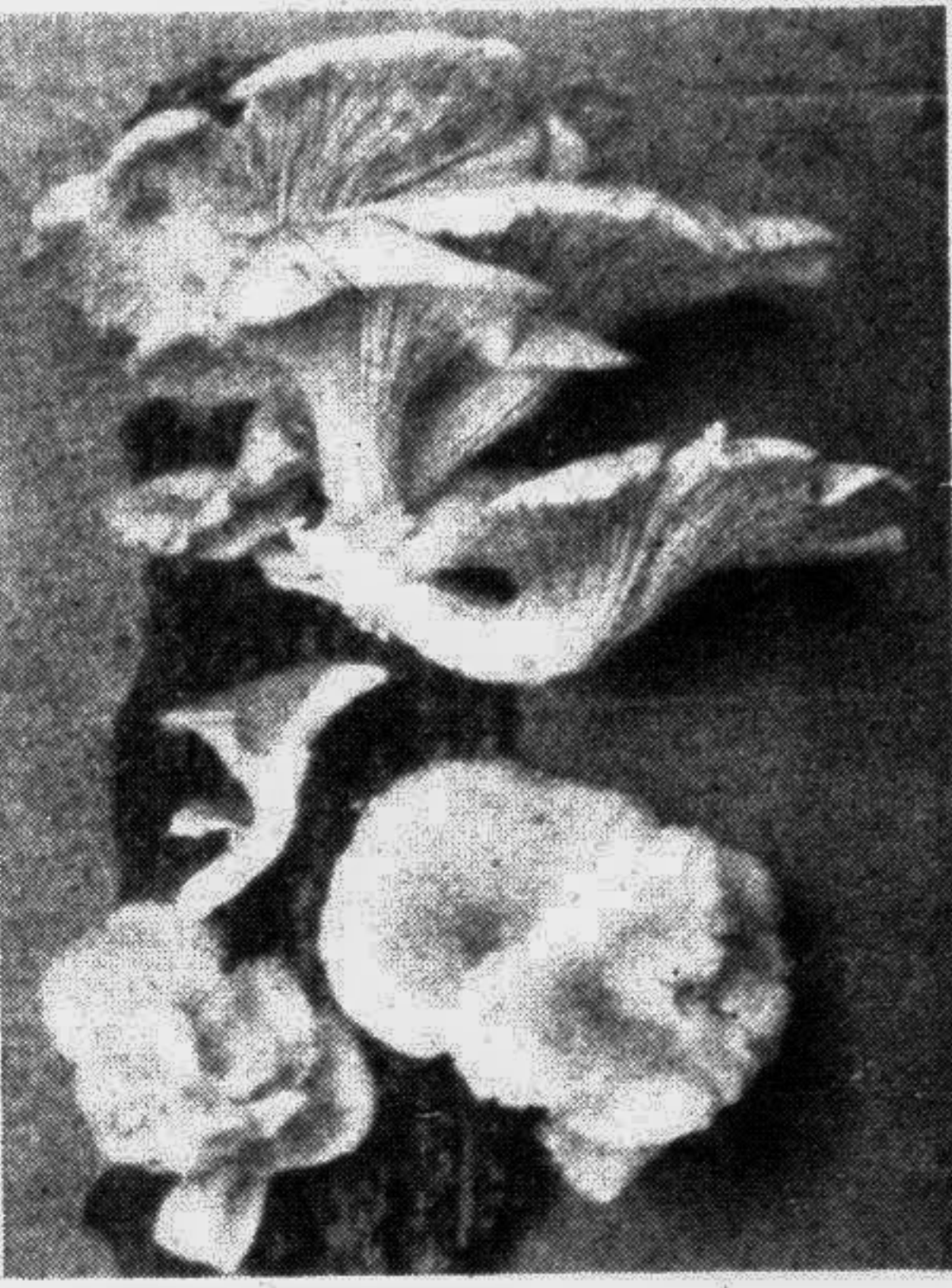
Meanwhile, a non-government organisation (NGO) — Socio-economic Development Society (SEDS) — is also cultivating mushroom at Jagatnagar in Saturia thana under Manikganj district since 1987.

"We are selling a 400-gram processed packet of mushroom seed for Taka 4 to the nearby villagers", Serajul Islam, Director of SEDS told The Daily Star. He added, "We can produce more if a good marketing system is assured".

On an average, about 500 grams matured mushroom can be produced from that 400-gram packet through an easy and simple farming in a small area, technicians say. Besides, it becomes matured within only two weeks, they added.

In SEDS mushroom farm, seven employees of whom two women are working to promote this nutritious vegetable. They do research in their own laboratory and campaign for cultivation of mushroom in the villages.

Meanwhile, the Sobhanbag mushroom technicians informed that they sell 1500 packets of processed mushroom seed per week on an average. Besides, it is heard that some private sector enterprises are going to produce mushroom on a large scale.



Biswas, Khaleda greet President of Dominican Republic

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated Dr Joaquin Balaguer, President of the Dominican Republic on the occasion of the Independence of that country, reports BSS.

President Biswas, in a message, wished Dominican President good health, happiness and long life and the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the people.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated Dr Joaquin Balaguer, President of the Dominican Republic on the occasion of the Independence Day of the country.

Begum Zia in a message to Dominican President wished him good health, happiness and long life and peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Dominican Republic.

Release of workers held during blockade demanded

A joint convention of Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad and Suta-Bastrakal Sramik Karmachari Federation yesterday urged the authorities to immediately implement the agreement signed between the government and SKOP leaders, reports BSS.

Chaired by the Convener of Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad Abul Bashar, the day-long convention also urged the government to immediately release the leaders and workers arrested during the country-wide blockade recently.

Held at the Col Taker auditorium here, the function was addressed, among others, by SKOP leaders, Abdus Salam Khan, Tipu Biswas, Abdullah Sarkar, Shah Atul Islam, Nasim Ali, Tofazzal Hossain, Sirin Akhtar and Shah Alam.

About 200 representatives from 52 jute mills and 68 cotton and textile mills workers unions attended the convention.

Newsmen to observe token strike today

A three-hour token strike from 11 am to 2 pm will be observed in all the newspapers and news agencies today in protest against ransacking of Bangla Bazar Patrika, a DUJ press release signed by its Joint Secretary Akhtar Ahmed Khan said yesterday, reports BSS.

The journalists will hold a protest rally at 11 am today at the premises of National Press Club.

Shahjahan Mia and Altaf Mahmud, President and General Secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists have urged all members of the union to observe the token strike and attend the rally.

Referring to frequent AL accusation he said that AL tried to mean that the BNP government promulgated the ordinance but the reality was different.

The State Minister said his government is committed to the independence of the judiciary and is working in this regard.

Abdul Momin Chowdhury conducted the programme produced by Salek Khan.



Shahabuddin's painting exhibition at Shilpangan.

— Star photo

Shahabuddin's painting display begins

By Staff Correspondent

A second phase of Shahabuddin's painting exhibition began in the city yesterday. The week-long exhibition at the private art gallery Shilpangan, Dhanmondi, Road-4 will have 22 works of oil paint, drawing and lithograph on display.

A 17-day exhibition displaying 34 paintings of the eminent contemporary artist who stays in Paris ended February 21. All 34 paintings were sold out.

Exhibits at the second display were all done in Dhaka. Poet Shamsur Rahman opened the exhibition while lawyer Ishtiaq Ahmed, chief of Shilpangan's Advisory Board, presided over.

French envoy in Dhaka, Ambassador Jean Michael Lacombe, also spoke praising Shahabuddin as one of the great contemporary artists who are highly acclaimed in France.

The 22 works now on display include two large works — a drawing and an oil painting each measuring 15x6 feet.

Minor boy killed in city road mishap

By DMCH Correspondent

A minor boy was killed in a road accident and two others wounded in separate incidents in the capital Friday.

An unidentified boy aged nearly 10 died as a minibus ran over him at Shanir Akhra, Demra, Friday afternoon.

Demra police seized the minibus bearing number Dhaka Cha-3762 immediately after the accident but its driver managed to escape, said Demra police.

A businessman Shymol, 25, was stabbed and robbed of Taka 3,800 at Chawk Bazar Friday morning.

Shymol was admitted at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with stab injuries.

The victim said that while he was passing through the area by a rickshaw, he was waylaid by some muggers who stabbed him and snatched the money at around 8 am yesterday.

In another incident, a school student, Kamrul Hasan, suffered bullet injury at Shantibagh at around 5:30 pm yesterday and admitted to the DMCH.

Kamrul was an SSC examinee of Shantibagh High School and a resident of 77, Shantibagh.

While a group of armed men fired gunshots following a chaos in the area, Kamrul who was standing by his house sustained the bullet, witnesses said.

BSP meet today

The meeting of the executive committee of Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) will be held today at 12 noon at 22 Topkhana Road, the temporary office of the parishad, reports BSS.

All members of the executive committee have been requested to attend the meeting on time.

Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) production

Bertolt Brecht's Man Equals Man

Translated into Bangla by Asaduzzaman Noor
Directed by Fritz Bennewitz

February 28 7: 15 pm
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Puthi Bitan, Bailey Road

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Gas cylinder leakage Victims to get compensation

Acting Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Mahbubul Alam Tara announced here yesterday that all persons afflicted by the gas cylinder leakage accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on February 9 would be given proper compensation as per law, reports BSS.

Six persons died and a number of others were injured following the gas cylinder leakage near Lemua Bridge under Fent district.

The Acting Chief Whip yesterday handed over a cheque for Taka 10,000 each to the representatives of the person died in the incident. The victims of the incident were — Mustafa Kamal, Ashutosh Das, Mahbubul Haq, Abu Bakar alias Herzu Meah, Serajul Haq and Kiron.

Besides, the Acting Chief Whip also wanted over an amount of Taka 1,57,500 to the local administration for distribution among the injured as well as otherwise affected persons in the incident.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion at Feni Mahbubul Alam Tara said the present government was pledge-bound to stand by the side of the people in their well and woe alike. "The government will do whatever necessary in times of need of the people," he added.

Assist literacy drive, Siraj urges donors

JSD (S) president Shahjahan Siraj MP yesterday (Friday) addressed a conference of parliamentarians on population and development being held at the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi, according to a message received here, reports UNB.

Shahjahan Siraj, participating at the conference as a single representative from Bangladesh, spoke on "Population and Development in Asia."

Anti-terrorism law a complete law: Haq

By Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Law and Justice Aminul Haq said Wednesday that the government was monitoring the prevailing situation in the country and hoped that Special Powers Act will become redundant in near future.

He was facing questions from K S Nabi, Legal Affairs Secretary of Awami League and three senior journalists in the TV programme 'Mukhamukhi' on Wednesday.

Anti-Terrorism Law, Special Powers Act and the Indemnity Ordinance dominated the 45 minutes of the 90-minute programme.

Three senior journalists had little scope to question as the two Barristers were locked in debate over the issues for most of the time.

Refuting the charge that the Anti-Terrorism Law is an "incomplete" legislation which is contradictory to fundamental rights ensured by the Constitution, the State Minister said that it was a complete law and people's rights were not infringed as there is a provision that one can seek the Supreme Court's help.

He also rejected the allegation from the AL leader that the opposition leaders and

workers were being victimised by the newly adopted laws.

K S Nabi pointed out the case of their party MP, Auranga as an example of victimisation and also pointed out the incident of Dohar thana early this month.

The State Minister said that the Special Powers Act had already been trimmed and the clauses relating to the newspaper industry were repealed.

Barrister Nabi said that the foreigners laughed at the ordinance that barred trial of the killers of the father of the nation. He accused the BNP government of dillydallying in repealing of the ordinance.

But Barrister Haq said that the matter was lying with a Parliamentary Committee and it was wise not to comment on it.

Referring to frequent AL accusation he said that AL tried to mean that the BNP government promulgated the ordinance but the reality was different.

The State Minister said his government is committed to the independence of the judiciary and is working in this regard.

Abdul Momin Chowdhury conducted the programme produced by Salek Khan.

Ajker Kagoj hosts iftar party

The Daily Ajker Kagoj yesterday hosted an iftar party at a city hotel in celebration of the daily's second founding anniversary, said a press release.

The iftar party was attended by ministers, politicians, diplomats, journalists, intellectuals, writers, poets and industrialists.

Editor and the members of the Editorial Board of the newspaper welcomed the guests at the function.

580 bottles of phensidyl seized, 3 held

RAJSHAHI, Feb 26: A special squad of BDR led by Commandant of 20 Rifle Battalion Major Chowdhury Fazlul Bari seized 580 bottles of phensidyl syrup valued at about Taka 87 thousand searching a passenger bus no. Dhaka-Metro Ba-02-0116 at Natore railgate today, reports BSS.

Three persons were arrested in this connection.

Weather

Night temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty win is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi division and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday).

The Met office forecasts, night temperature may rise by one or two degree Celsius over the country.

The Met office adds, weather may deteriorate within two days.

The minimum temperature of 10.1 degree Celsius was reported from Rangamati yesterday (Friday) and the maximum of 31.1 degree was from Rajshahi.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.00 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 6.22 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	28.5	16.4	59	62
Chittagong	27.5	15.6	72	62
Rajshahi	31.1	14.5	65	59
Khulna	30.0	16.7	81	71
Birsaal	29.0	15.6	87	72
Cox's Bazar	28.0	16.0	57	66
Sylhet	26.6	13.5	68	54
Dinajpur	28.4	12.0	71	61



Muslims breaking fast in city yesterday.

— Star photo