

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Enchanting Fiddler

by Dipak Kumar Karmaker

Whatever they are doing — reading, playing or watching TV, children jump up anytime they see him. Even the elders feel like having a glance at him as he passes by playing on his violin. The way he entices children's attention by producing dulcet music on his violin, reminds one of Pied Piper of Hamelin. And the story does not altogether seem chimerical.

Nuru Mian, 33 years old, dressed in "panjabi" and "pajama," wanders through the streets playing on his violin. He also sells violin. "I have no particular area, I move about every nook and cranny of Dhaka city," says Nuru. The violin that Nuru plays on, is very different from the traditional one. While the traditional violin is four-stringed, his is one-stringed. Horse-hair which is used in the bow, is replaced by linen. On the other hand, instead of the wooden belly, a very small tin-plate made of clay and cow-hide, is used. The whole wooden structure is replaced by bamboo. It seems obvious, on the face of it, that all the modifications are made in order to minimise the making cost.

Nuru who has been living on the income by his musical instrument for twenty years can play any song on his violin. "My father Ustad (master) Manu Mian initiated me into this art" Nuru informs.

When asked if any other people are doing the same thing, Nuru, betraying aplomb, replies, "My brother, uncle and I alone are doing it. Even if some people attempt to do it, they do not have the necessary patience to learn the whole thing."

Nuru who makes the musical instrument by himself, has always his hands reddened which he gets while applying dye to the instrument. He claims that no other people in Bangladesh can do it. He makes it at home, his wife helps

him, of course and he has two children. There is no fixed price for the fiddles, he mentions. The price may vary from Tk 10 to 30. He, however, gains a profit of Tk 3 to 4 on an average from the sale of each fiddle. As for sav-

ings, he says with complacency, "No, whatever I earn, is spent entirely." About this profession, Nuru says ecstatically, "I feel great when people gather round me. I feel happy because I know I give them pleasure."

People of all classes, ages show interest, he says, but it is the children who want to buy fiddles while the elders only love to listen.

Talking to Nuru, it seems that he is fully devoted to his vocation although he knows very well that not much profit accrues from it. Nonetheless, Nuru shows not the slightest grievance.

When asked about what disadvantages he faces in this profession, he boldly says, "No, there is no disadvantage." As for the 'mastans' or muggers, the fiddler knows how to reason the former into accepting his own arguments amicably. Thus once, Nuru relates, he was attacked by a band of muggers. But Nuru, not is the least frightened, came forward with readymade arguments. He said, "You see I'm a poor man. I've earned only Tk 50 selling violins throughout the day. This small amount will sustain a family of four for the day, while this, if you take it from me, will be spent merely on your smoking." He added also, "I delight people by playing on my violin. Why are you pestering me?" This, interestingly enough, put the bandits into silence and they left, so reports Nuru.

Although the profession Nuru is engaged in, is not very agreeable from a materialistic viewpoint, it has, nevertheless, particular bearings on the cultural trend of society. And above all, Nuru is earning his livelihood honestly.



Nuru Mian playing on violin surrounded by children

## JU annual shahitya utsav begins

By JU Correspondent

The annual Shahitya Utsav of Jahangirnagar University began at the campus yesterday. Vice-Chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed inaugurated the two-day meet yesterday morning at the university's TSC premises.

A colourful procession was brought out by the students to welcome the Bengali year 1400.

Organised by the Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union (JU CSU), the opening session included literary competition and cultural show.

Poet Shamsur Rahman inaugurated the evening session of the utsav which was attended by Ramendu Mojumder and Hayat Mamud.

Bangla Sangsad and Dramatics Department staged different programmes to draw curtain to the opening day of the utsav.

Batalik Sangsad, a cultural organisation of Jahangirnagar University yesterday staged a musical programme to welcome the Bengali year 1400.

Prof. Shubhas Chandra Das, Chairman of the Geography Department attended the programme as the chief guest while Ahmed Reza and Parveen spoke on the occasion.

## Motorbike hijackers' ring

By Staff Correspondent

Some organised gangs were engaged in hijacking new motorcycles in the city and allegedly selling those under forged registration papers, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) sources said.

One such group tried to secure registration of 10 motorcycles early this month submitting false papers of a motorcycle manufacturer, Atlas Bangladesh Ltd and one of its agents Abdul Halim & Brothers but failed as the plot was detected by BRTA officials.

The BRTA officials held two of the gang members and handed them over to police. Police also seized two motorcycles, the source said.

The members of the group did not turn up for the registration papers of the rest eight motorcycles after the first two were seized.

Police sources said that they were trying to round up rest of the gang members.

## Speaker back home

The Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razaque Ali returned home yesterday from New Delhi after attending the 89th conference of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), reports BSS.

The Speaker led a four-member Bangladesh parliamentary delegation to the week-long conference.

The other members of the delegation were Tofael Ahmed (Awami League), Begum Rebecka Mahmud (BNP) and Abul Hashem, Secretary, Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat.



- 5:00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5:30 News in Bangla
- 5:35 Sports programme
- 6:30 Samachar
- 7:25 Nazrul songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Sukhi Neer
- 9:00 Magazine programme: Aarshi
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Comedy serial: Murphy Brown
- 11:00 Musical programme: Disco Rally
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing

## Weather

### Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka and Barisal divisions and over the regions of Comilla and Sylhet during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday, meteorological office said.

Weather will remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, it said.

Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius during the period.

The sun sets in Dhaka today (Monday) at 6-22 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5-33 am.

Country's highest temperature was 39 degree Celsius at Chuadanga and the lowest 19.5 degree at Bogra and Dinajpur.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature (degree Celsius)	Humidity (percentage)
Dhaka	max 34.4, min 20.5	79, 54
Chittagong	31.2, 24.6	83, 76
Rajshahi	37.7, 21.2	72, 42
Khulna	35.7, 25.5	78, 57
Barisal	34.0, 21.0	85, 98
Cox's Bazar	31.5, 24.4	82, 77
Sylhet	33.2, 21.6	77, 63
Dinajpur	35.1, 19.5	65, 37



Samajtantrik Chhatra Front brought out a procession in the city yesterday to make its sit-in programme a success on April 25.

## DU: Accommodation crisis—IV Session jam main cause

By Masud Arif

Session jam is the main cause of accommodation crisis at the residential halls of the Dhaka University, some hall Provosts, teachers and students pointed out.

Lack of academic facilities and holding the examinations beyond schedule are creating problems in the university and specially in the residential halls, they mentioned.

Some hall Provosts, while talking to this correspondent said that a large number of students did not leave the halls as they could not complete their Masters degree course in scheduled time but at the same time the more and more new students are getting admitted in the first year Honours courses.

We fail to accommodate these new comers in the residential halls as the senior students could not vacate their seats by that time, some hall Provosts said.

Meanwhile, the facilities in the university are not increased with respect to the enrolment for the last few years, teachers added.

Only six residential halls have been built after the independence. Of them, two are for the female students. The four halls for the male students — Kabi Jasimuddin Hall, AF Rahman Hall, Ziaur Rahman Hall and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall — can accommodate some 1748 students, hall sources informed.

Besides, the total seat capacity is about 960 in the other two halls — Shamsunnahar Hall and Bangladesh-Kuwait Friendship Women Hostel, sources said.

Meanwhile, a huge number of outsiders including some armed terrorists stayed in different residential halls, hall sources said adding that most of those outsiders had left the halls at the end of last year after a bloody gunbattle between two factions of a student organisation that left two students dead in September 4 last.

At that time, the Dhaka University authorities took some stern measures to free the residential halls from the outsiders and terrorists.

Some resident students and teachers told that these outsiders often created accommodation crisis in the halls as they kept some rooms

Death condoled

The Board of Trustees of Education, Science Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT) and the governing council of the independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) yesterday expressed their deep shock at the death of A F M Nurul Alam, a founding member of the trust and a co-sponsor of the university, reports BSS.

## Concerted efforts against violation of women right urged

Minister of State for Cultural Affairs Prof. Jahannara Begum yesterday called for concerted efforts against violation of rights of women, reports BSS.

She was speaking at a workshop on violation of rights against women workers, organised by women's committee of international confederation of free trade union (ICFTU) Bangladesh Council.

The state minister pleaded for training facilities to develop leadership qualities of women at the field level.

## Biswas felicitates Assad

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday greeted Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad on the occasion of the independence day of Syrian Arab Republic, reports BSS.

President Biswas in a message to President Assad expressed the hope that the existing fraternal relations between the two countries would be further developed and strengthened in the years ahead.

Biswas, wished good health and long life of President Assad and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the Syrian people.

## Govt firm to stop extortion of tolls in transport sector: Abbas

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation and Jubadal president Mirza Abbas MP said yesterday that the pace of development and progress could be ensured by solving the problems of the transport sector, reports BSS.

Mirza Abbas who is also President of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity, was addressing as chief guest the annual national convention of the samity at a hotel at Santinagar in the city.

Among others, Samity Secretary General Mohammad Ashraf Khan and other office bearers including Khandkar Enayetullah, Moshir Rahman, Ali Akbar, Abul Kalam, Haji Jalal Ahmed, Haji Abul Quasem and Salch Ahmed spoke on the occasion.

Mirza Abbas said that the present government was committed to stop extortion of tolls in the transport sector.

## Hafiz asks officials to take appropriate steps to preserve land deeds

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz has called upon the concerned officials to take appropriate measures to ensure proper registration and preservation of balam books and land deeds counted by their owner as valuable as their lives, reports BSS.

He has also called for curbing the trend of malpractice in fixing undervaluation of land in times of registration thereby depriving the government of huge amount of revenues, an official handout said.

Law Minister made this call while inaugurating the newly built Kishoregonj district registration office building yesterday. Situated on the land of 23,000 square feet, this registration office building has been recently constructed at a cost of Taka 1.95 crore.

Presided over by District Registrar Abdul Hannan, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Deputy Minister for Shipping, A B M Zahidul Haque, Amiruddin Ahmed, MP, Maulana Ataur Rahman Khan, MP, Abdul Hamid, MP, Maj (retd) Aktaruzzaman, MP, Habibur Rahman, Afzal Hossain Ahmed, Inspector General of Registration, Deputy Commissioner, Kishoregonj and Secretary General of Kishoregonj District unit of Bangladesh Deed Writers' Association.

Dwelling on the manifold production oriented uplift programmes initiated by present government, Mirza Hafiz reaffirmed that top priority had been given to construction and reconstruction of various infrastructures related to people's welfare.

He said that peace and stability in all sphere of life was a must for unhindered implementation of these programmes. He also called for sustaining the present trend of democratic process for helping establish rule of law in the society and improve lot of the teeming millions.

## Hasina condoles Ozal's death

Awami League president and leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of Turkish President Turgut Ozal, reports BSS.

In a message, Sheikh Hasina conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and the people of Turkey.

## Mannan leaves for Teheran

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan left here yesterday for Teheran as the head of a four-member Bangladesh delegation to the 13th conference of the Labour Ministers of Asia and the Pacific region, beginning in the Iranian capital from April 21, reports BSS.

### Bangladesh Railway International Tender Notice

No: P6/R&R/DL-LOCO-SPARES/92-93 Dated: 07-4-1993

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed firms of Bangladesh and abroad for reconditioning/repairing of Diesel Locomotive spares of Bangladesh Railway.

Tender document can be obtained during office hours on all working days with effect from 8-4-93 to 25-5-93 from the office of the Chief Controller of Stores (CCS/PHT), Bangladesh Railway, Pahartali, Chittagong on cash payment of Taka 750/- (Seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable). The tenderers of Foreign Countries may obtain tender document and submit quotation through their local Agent in Bangladesh. No tender document will be sold on the opening date. Tenderers should be addressed to Chief Controller of Stores, Bangladesh Railway, Pahartali, Chittagong and must reach or be dropped in the Tender Box placed in his office by 12.00 Noon of 26-5-93 and will be opened on the same day at 12.00 Noon.

Tender received after the date and time specified above shall stand rejected.

BR Administration may not accept the lowest offer and reserves the right to accept any or part of all of tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

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