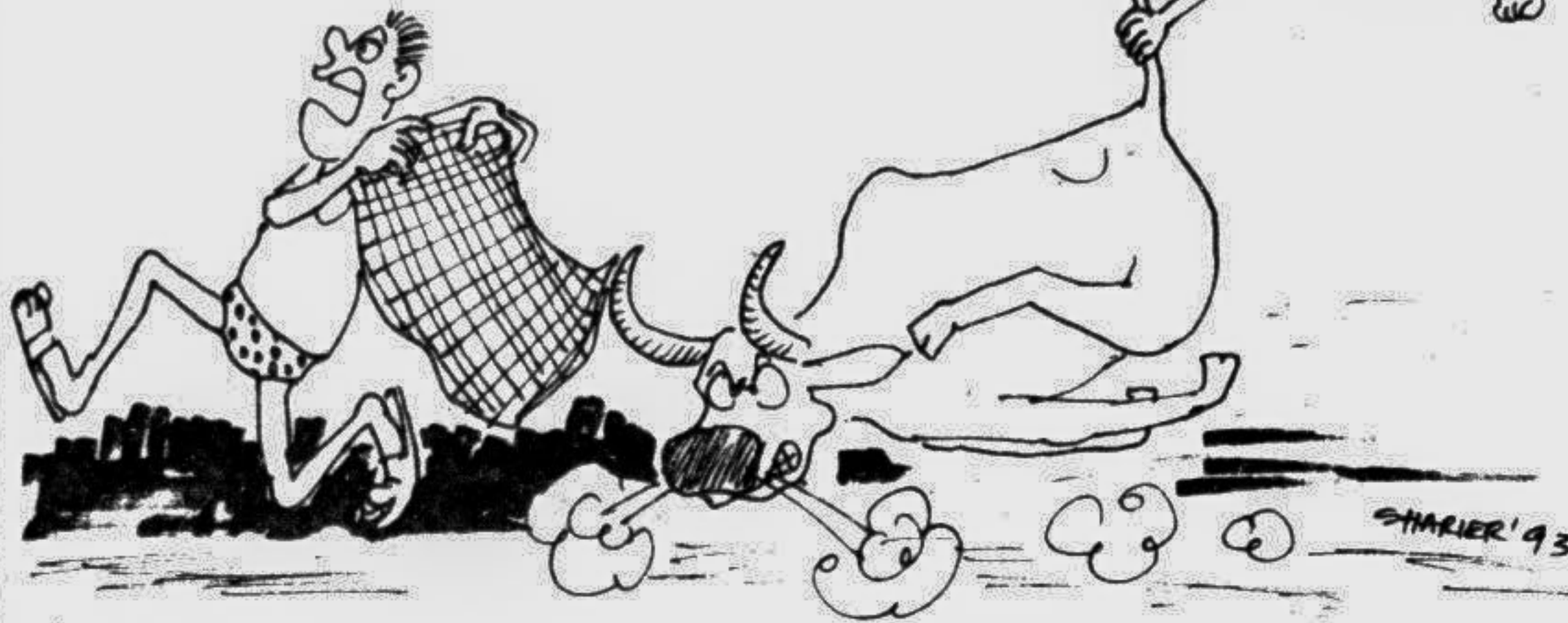


Dhaka Day by Day

When Cows and Goats Take over Dhaka Streets

by Parveen Anam

I TOLD THEM BEFORE MY COW DOES NOT LIKE LOW BUDGET CUSTOMERS!



Housewives in town can at last heave a sigh of relief now that they have successfully managed to put the Eid behind them with all its responsibilities and festivities. Till next year, Eid-ul Azha is a strenuous affair as any housewife will readily admit. Preparations begin days ahead as the men trot off to the various 'cow market' to make their purchase but ultimately leaving the final purchase for the night before. The cow or goat is brought home from the 'haaf' tied up in the yard and dutifully sacrificed on Eid day.

The knives have been sharpened and the spices readied to hasten the process of cooking because tradition decrees that lunch, the major Eid meal, be an affair where the sacrificial meat is cooked and served. All in all, Eid is by and large a joyous event.

What is not joyous about the entire affair is the total apathy of the 'powers that be'. Understandably, most are off to their eternal villages or constituency in the case of the politician, to be near their dear ones or their voters. Whichever suits them. And in the process leave the harassed Dhakaites, to fend for themselves. The 'cow and goat market' which have in recent years traditionally started to spring up all over the city, bang in the heart of it actually, is a problem which leaves the sane citizen speechless. Quite regardless of the desires of the ordinary inhabitant of this wonderful city, beset with enough problems, days before the Eid day, markets with their ample supply of cows and goats, mushroom all over the city.

Suddenly one fine morning, as you are driving to work, the worries of the world nearly weighing down your frail shoulders, you come across this astonishing sight of seedy looking characters digging holes in the middle of the road, putting in bamboo poles and stringing up their equally seedy-looking 'shamianas'. The con-

tent of the 'shamianas', of course, are hundreds of cows and goats brought over from the villages or better still from the neighbouring countries. Right in the middle of the road, the Dhakaites are supposed to buy his 'cow-ware'. He is not given an option. He has to stop and look at least, because those poor four legged creatures, who have never been anywhere near a town before this, are absolutely terrified of the vehicular traffic, and you are left looking equally terrified, as that cow tears down the middle of the road, straight at you. The Dhakaites are gradually getting quite adept at the art of dodging.

Understandably, the authorities have only the Dhakaites' best interest at heart. They are trying to save them the trip to the market to the city suburbs, to make his Eid purchase. But has the Dhakaites ever been approached on the issue and asked if the one day of the year he would rather walk to the suburb or have that market sat in the middle of the road, while it's all he can do to avoid being trampled underfoot by the hundreds of cows and goats roaming around. And the stink in the entire area again sends the mind reeling.

Of course we are solemnly informed by the Mayor and his men, that the place will be all cleaned up in a matter of hours, and we are not to worry. As usual the authorities are not great believers of 'actions speak louder than words'. The Dhakaites are more or less forced to spend the pre-Eid and the post-Eid days indoors. Preferably with incense burning in every room, to prevent being overcome by the stench of these markets, at every corner and every street of the city. In the future, perhaps the weary Dhakaites might just be asked discreetly what his opinion is on the 'cow-market' brought to his doorstep. The authorities may have a rude awakening. And Dhaka will perhaps be a cleaner city not being overrun by cows and goats.

Mahananda Bridge will be opened to traffic June 23

RAJSHAHI, June 6: China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge-3 known as Mahananda Bridge will be opened to traffic on June 23, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone of the Bridge at Rehar-char under Chapainawabganj Poursabha on August 29, 1991.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to formally open the Mahananda Bridge on June 23.

The 448.30-metre long and 7.32 metre wide Mahananda Bridge has been constructed at a cost of about Taka fifty crore including Taka 25 crore provided by China as project aid.

The bridge will have 10 kms of approach road and 1.30 metre footpath on both sides.

The work on the bridge started in February 92 and is expected to be completed by June 15 four months ahead of schedule time.

The two other China-Bangladesh friendship bridges are Buriganga Bridge in Dhaka and Shombhuganj Bridge in Mymensingh.

About 265 Chinese workers including 65 Chinese experts and over 100 Bangladeshi technical experts have worked day and night to complete the work of the bridge.

Depression over North Bay likely this month

One or two monsoon depression is likely over the North Bay during the current month, according to a Met Office forecast, reports UNB.

The long-range forecast also predicted moderate flash flood over Sylhet region in the middle of June and over Chittagong region in the last part of the month.

On rainfall, the forecast said that Chittagong division is likely to have the highest 575-625 mm, followed by 425-475 mm in Barisal division.

Dhaka division may have 375-425 mm rainfall while Rajshahi division 350-400 mm and Khulna division 300-350 mm during the month.

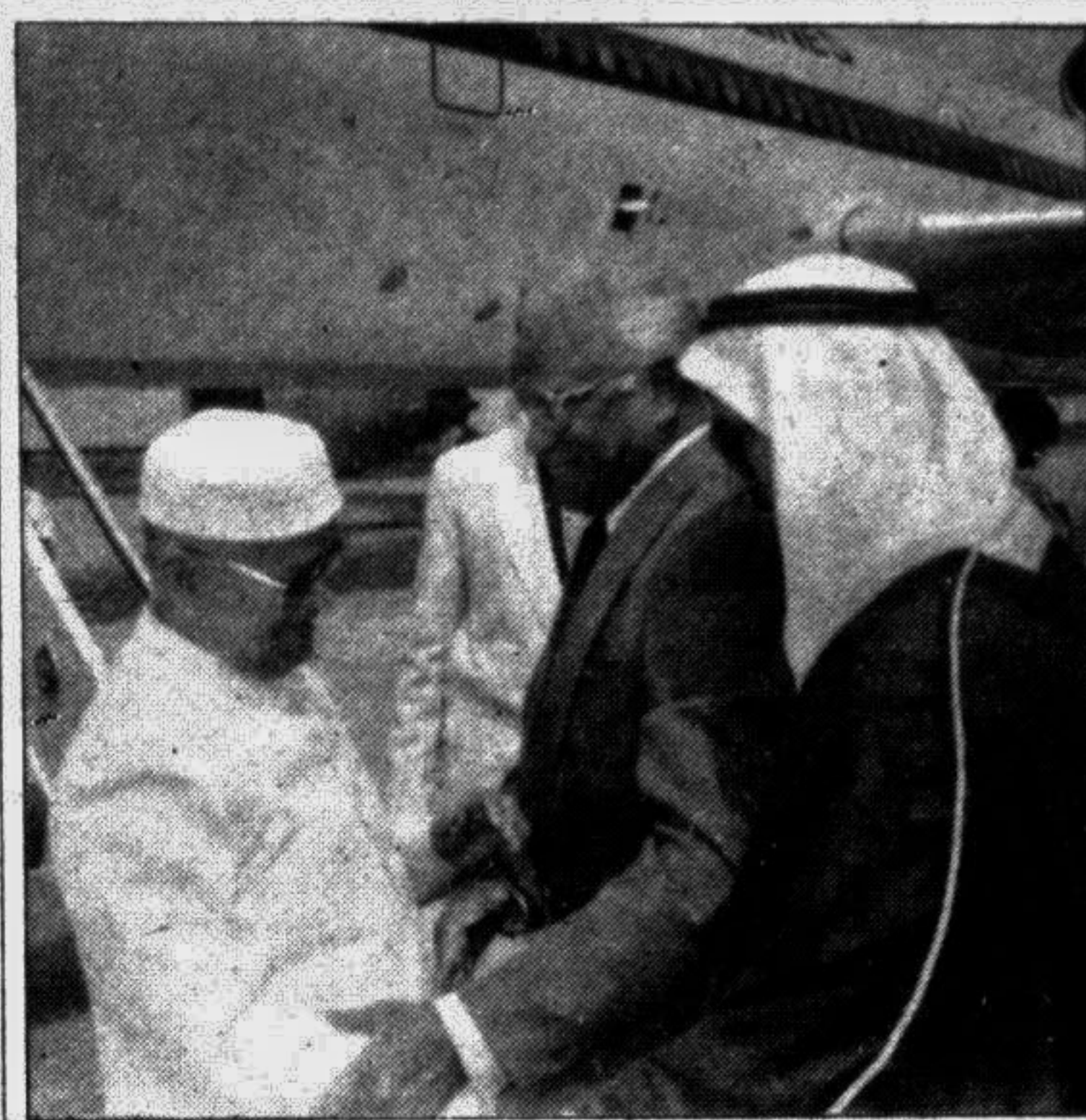
In last month, Chittagong division had the highest 508 mm rain, followed by Dhaka division 339 mm, Barisal division 228 mm, Rajshahi division 222 mm and Khulna division 163 mm.

'Tk 611.85 cr allocated for health, family welfare'

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haq yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that there had been a total allocation of Taka 611.85 crore for the health and family welfare head for the fiscal 1992-93 under the development programme within the frame work of the current fourth five-year plan, reports BSS.

They Deputy Minister was replying a question from Awami League member Kazi Abdur Rashid (Gopalganj)-1.

Replying to another question from treasury bench member Salauddin Kamran (Noakhali-3), the Deputy Minister said the current rate of birth was 32.01 per thousand compared with 47.0 per thousand in 1975.



Agriculture, Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Resources Minister M Majedul Haque receiving President Abdur Rahman Biswas on his arrival at the ZIA yesterday after performing hajj. — PID photo

Fahd accepts invitation President returns after performing hajj

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Begum Biswas returned here yesterday morning from Saudi Arabia after performing holy hajj, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at the VIP lounge of Zia International Airport, President Biswas said he was grateful to almighty Allah for performing hajj, one of the five rukons of Islam.

He said during his stay in Saudi Arabia, he met Saudi King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz and Crown Prince Abdullah and discussed matters of mutual interest with them.

King Fahd wished continued peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh, President Biswas said.

He said the King, custodian of two holy mosques, recalled the existing friendly relations between the two countries and expressed the hope that it would be further cemented in future.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said he had extended an invitation to King Fahd to visit Bangladesh which was gladly accepted by the King.

President Biswas also at-

tended a luncheon, hosted by the King in honour of the visiting heads of government and state.

President Biswas thanked the Saudi government for excellent arrangement and hospitality extended to him and members of his entourage.

On board Bangladesh Biman, President Biswas exchanged greetings with the returning hajjis.

Agriculture, Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Resources Minister M Majedul Haque, received President Biswas at the VIP tarmac.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Red Crescent Chairman Syed Shahidul Haque Jamal, MP, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam, high civil and military officials were present at the airport.

2 more ships for Ctg-Barisal route by '95 likely

Two more passenger ships are to be purchased by 1995 for the coastal route of Chittagong-Barisal provided external assistance can be arranged, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by State Minister for Shipping Harun-al-Rashid in parliament during question hour yesterday.

The Minister further disclosed that purchase of three more steamers for Dhaka-Khulna route was also under active consideration of the government.

He said the state-run BIWTC has at present 25 passenger vessels and 30 ferries. Of them, 18 vessels and 27 ferries are in operation.

The State Minister added that a programme of building two more RO-RO ferries in the country's shipyard would soon be taken up with Danish assistance.

'Launch capsizes takes 78 in '92-93 fiscal'

Some 16 incidents of launch capsizing claimed 78 lives in the country during 1992-93 fiscal year, reports UNB.

State Minister for Shipping Harun-al-Rashid said this in parliament during question hour yesterday replying to Dr Mozammel Hossain of Awami League.

The State Minister told the House that no compensation was given to the members of the deceased families.

93 arrested in city

Dhaka Metro sub-zonal authority of the Directorate of Narcotics Control arrested 93 persons during the month of May and recovered huge quantities of drugs of different varieties from their possession, reports BSS.

The drugs seized included 442.5 grams of heroin, 15 grams of charas, 15 bottles of phensidyl, three kgs and 40 grams of ganza, 74 litre of country-made liquor and six litre rectified spirit.

What's on today . . .

ADAB

In observance of World Environment Day, ADAB has organised a day-long programme at the Institution of Engineers today (Monday) beginning at 9 am. The programmes include exhibition of books, posters and video show on environment.

Minister for Environment and Forest Abdullah Al-Noman will inaugurate the programme as chief guest while Dr Kazi Faruq Ahmed, President of Environmental Coalition of NGOs, will preside.

Zia Academy

In observance of the first founding anniversary of Zia Academy, a discussion meeting will be held today (Monday) at 5.30 at its office premises at 3, Rajuk Avenue.

Yoga Foundation

Yoga Foundation will arrange a joint meditation and discussion meeting of quantum graduates today (Monday) at 4 pm at its office at 119, Shantinagar in the city.

Society of Neurosciences confce

The third national convention and international scientific conference of Bangladesh Society of Neurosciences will begin today (Monday) at 9.30 am at Hotel Sheraton.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf will be the chief guest.

Zahir Raihan Film Society

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 'The Colour of Pomegranates', the first film of 'The Caucasian Trilogy' by the Georgian filmmaker Sergel Paradzhanov today (Monday) at the German Cultural Centre at 6 pm.

Comilla Zila Janakalyan Samity

A meeting of the executive committee of Comilla Zila Janakalyan Samity will be held at its Santinagar office today (Monday) at 7.00 pm.

Painting show at La Galerie

A seven-day painting exhibition of Saleh Md Nazib will begin today (Monday) at La Galerie.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the show at 5 pm.

It will remain open everyday from 9 am to 8 pm.

Seminar on life - oriented education

The national level competition of the Education Week '93 will begin at Bangladesh Shishu Academy today (Monday).

On the occasion a seminar on 'life-oriented education' will be held at the auditorium of National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM) at 9-30 am on the day.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar will attend the seminar as chief guest while State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan will attend the seminar as special guest. Dr Abu Hamid Latif will present key-note paper at the seminar.

Shogorip

Shogorip in collaboration with Farm and Village Forestry Programme, CARE, will launch, the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) guidelines in Bangla today (Monday) at 3.30 pm at Hotel Abakash.

Weather

Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office forecasts moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong division and the regions of Rangpur, Pabna, Bogra, Mymensingh and Dhaka during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday.

However, weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged. Country's maximum temperature of 37.6 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi while the minimum of 18.9 degree was reported from Srimangal yesterday.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6:44 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:10 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major towns/cities Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius		Percentage of Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.8	28.0	81	67
Chittagong	32.8	27.0	80	70
Rajshahi	37.6	27.2	70	70
Khulna	34.6	26.6	75	69
Barisal	33.2	28.5	86	79
Sylhet	23.8	21.5	100	91
Cox's Bazar	32.8	27.0	86	82
Tangail	34.5	27.5	78	75



United States Information Service (USIS) and Environmental Survey Unit (ESRU) of Dhaka University jointly organised a seminar on 'Environmental Considerations of Water Development Projects' at the American Cultural Centre auditorium yesterday. Dr Sajjadur Raheed is seen in the photo, discussing the keynote paper. Also seen (from left) Dr Ainun Nishat, Dr Khondokar Nizamuddin, Professor of Geography and director of ESRU, Dr Shahadat Ali, Dr Craig Anderson, Ms Olivia P L Hilton, Director of American Cultural Centre and Dr J Michael Korff-Rodrigues, Director of USIS. — USIS photo

Court vacates injunction order on Mizan, Tito

A court yesterday vacated the temporary injunction order passed on March 7 restraining Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury from acting as chairman and Khaledur Rahman Tito secretary general of the Jatiya Party, reports UNB.

Joint Organising Secretary of Jatiya Party Sajjad Hossain had sued 30 JP men, including its jailed Chairman H M Ershad, accusing them of violating the party constitution through an 'illegal' decision.

He challenged the decision of the party presidium on replacement of Shah Mozamem Hossain with Khaledur Rahman Tito as JP secretary general, terming it 'illegal' and got an order of temporary injunction from the second court of Assistant Judge of Dhaka.

Later, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury filed an appeal to the higher court.

After hearing both sides, the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Md Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan, vacated the temporary injunction order.

The court also rejected the plaint of the case, stating it not maintainable in law.

Nat'l workshop on rice research begins tomorrow

A three-day national workshop on rice research will begin tomorrow at Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Gazipur, reports BSS.

The theme of the workshop is: 'Rice Production in the Changing Environment of Bangladesh.' Agriculture, Irrigation and Flood Control Minister Maj Gen (Retd) M Majid-ul Haq will inaugurate the workshop at BRRI premises at 9 am.

Agriculture Secretary ANM Yusuf will attend the function as special guest.

Obituary

Ex-commissioner of WAPDA Abdul Matin died of old age complications yesterday morning at his Dhanmondi Residence, reports BSS.

Matin, second son of late Khan Bahadur Abdur Rahim of Sylhet, obtained his engineering graduation degree from Shibpur Engineering College and joined as civil engineer.

The deceased, left behind a son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His Namaj-e-Janaza will be held today at his Raynagar village home of Sylhet and will be buried at his family graveyard there.

'46 lakh suffer from tuberculosis'

At present there are about 46 lakh tuberculosis patients in the country, parliament was told yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to Syed Abul Hossain (AL), Deputy Minister for Health Sirajul Haq said that TB patients are treated in 12 hospitals in the country.



Monday

5:00	Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme Summary
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	The Universe of Music
5:30	Sports Programme: Football
6:25	Desh-O-Bigyan
7:00	Open University
7:25	Nazrul Songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Janamat
9:00	Musical Programme: Barnali
10:00	News in English
10:30	Parliament Round-up
10:35	Comedy Series: Murphy Brown
11:00	Disco Rally
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:45	Closing