

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Spoiled Holiday

by Parveen Anam

We all love holidays. Some more so than others, I guess. These are the lucky few who are always off on holidays. Extended ones. Ah, well. Some of us have to earn our living, and some don't, which explains the anomaly.

Holidays are an infectious business. Come that certain time of year, and it's a mad mad rush, to beat the other in boarding that aircraft, to make it to distant lands. Who was it who said holidays are also expensive business? Looking at the mad state of affairs, when just about anybody who is anybody is away on holiday, one would certainly not think so. Money seems to be the cheapest commodity and time is of no consequence. Any holiday lasting less than eight weeks at the least, is blasphemy to that endearing species, the Dhakaite.

It is when the holiday season draws to an inevitable end that the Dhakaite takes the true brow-beating. Woebegone is an expression which aptly describes the depth of the feeling of the beloved citizen as he heads home at the end of a hectic tour of foreign lands. Landing at the airport, clutching endless parcels and packages, both for himself and his countless relations, the Dhakaite has the 'back to the pavilion' look. So far so good.

Now comes the phase of recovering from the holiday. For not only does 'yours truly' believe in holidays, he also believes in keeping a truly crazy schedule during these self-torturing tours. Shopping of course heads the list of these trips and the entire schedule consists of a mad spree of shopping for just about everything from cleaning detergent to perfumes. Quite oblivious

of the fact that these are available freely in the local market in Dhaka, where the Dhakaite does not have to pay hard earned foreign currency to make his purchase either. But come holiday season and all semblance of sanity seems to depart the wee brain of the Dhakaite. Yet, we surely cannot hold that against him, can we? He is too endearing a species, a class by himself. And he has to keep up appearances, after all.



The amazing fact that never fails to surprise the other saner elements in this whole business of 'holidays' is why can't a holiday be just what it is meant to be? A late breakfast in bed, followed by a leisurely stroll down the boulevard or main street or wherever one happens to be, with an afternoon of sight-seeing and browsing in the local book store, to be capped by a quiet dinner and sitting up late in bed reading that book you bought at the book store?

Sort of unwind from the frenzy of life in Dhaka with its unending harts and traffic snarls?

Instead, the Dhakaite ends up in a frenzied rush from store to store and 'sale' to 'sale' piling up an unnecessary amount of junk to be carted back by air, sometimes after paying an exorbitant amount in excess baggage. And of course, after landing in Dhaka, he needs another week at the least, if not a good ten days, to recover from his 'holiday' which has been a strain not only on his financial resources but also on his physical being. An extended shopping extravaganza can be tiring to the utmost both mentally and physically, the Dhakaite often discovers, as he recovers from his 'holiday'.

'Innovate technology to fulfil country's needs'

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharrat Hossain yesterday called upon the scientists to innovate technology to fulfill the country's requirements to help it become self-reliant in all fields, reports BSS.

Dr Hossain was addressing as chief guest a seminar on "Science and technology in the 21st century" at the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council auditorium here.

Organised by Bangladesh Science Development Association, the seminar was presided over by association president Prof Aminul Islam. Dr M Shamsheer Ali, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University presented a key-note paper.

Among others, Dr M A Wajed Mia and Harunur Rashid spoke on the occasion.

The minister said a developing country like Bangladesh,

lagging far behind in science and technology, would face a new challenge in the 21st century. "We have to move faster to cope with the development taking place in the developed countries," he said.

Referring to the prospect of gas, the minister said the existing reserve of 10.6 trillion cubic feet would be exhausted by the year 2012 to 2017 if the present rate of consumption continued. He urged the scientists to explore newer gas fields.

The Energy Minister also told the scientists that extraction work of coal in the country's northern area in Barapukuria would start in the current financial year. The extraction of pit coal is also being taken up, he added.

Later he distributed trophies and certificates among the scientists who made significant contributions in the field of science and technology.

Rafiq visits flood-hit areas

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia paid a visit to see for himself the damage caused by floodwaters at the Gumati embankment near the villages of Peer Jatrapur, Balikhara and Bishnawpur under Burichang thana of Comilla district Friday, reports BSS.

Taka three lakh in cash, one hundred metric tons of rice, sufficient lungi and saree were sanctioned for the victims of the flood-affected areas of Burichang. Davidwar and Muradnagar thana.

Works Minister, while visiting the flood-affected areas distributed Taka fifty thousand in cash and lungis and sarees among the flood-victims.

Relief operations were geared up by the local leaders of BNP and the district administration.

Works Minister while visiting the area enquired about the welfare of the flood victims and assured them of all possible help and assistance of the government.

EC Vice President meets Biswas Continued assistance to Dhaka assured

The European Community (EC) will do its best to help Bangladesh in poverty alleviation and achieving socio-economic development, reports UNB.

The assurance came from Manuel Marin, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Community when he called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Officials said the visiting EC Vice-President appreciated various measures undertaken by the Bangladesh government for improving quality of life and welfare of the people and said despite their own problems in Europe, the Commission would continue its development assistance to Bangladesh.

Marin acknowledged the linkage between democracy and development and also appreciated the open-market policy of the government. European markets will continue to be responsive towards Bangladesh, he said.

Exchanging views with Marin, President Biswas said the present government was engaged in consolidating and expanding the scope of democracy in the country besides achieving socio-economic development and alleviating poverty.

Top-most priority has been given to population control and bringing women in the mainstream of economic activities as well as spread of education throughout the country, he said, adding the government had been able to make significant progress in its efforts.

He said the government had liberalised the industrial policy and amended the relevant laws for encouraging joint ventures and foreign investment besides

introducing free-market economy in the country.

Integration of the West Europe following the Maastricht treaty would lead to greater economic opportunities and prosperity in the European Community, President Biswas said. The community would then have greater economic and other cooperation with development countries like Bangladesh, he added.

President Biswas affirmed government conviction that democracy and development are most fundamentally interlinked. Peace, security and cooperation in the whole world are essential for consolidation of democracy and economic progress of all countries, he said.

He told Marin that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is also the Chairperson of SAARC, was making every possible effort to make the forum truly reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people of South Asia.

The President said natural calamities like floods and cyclones were problems affecting Bangladesh's economic progress. The current flood in the country has caused huge loss of crops and property. At this stage, Marin said his current visit would enable him to observe the flood situation in this country.

President Biswas conveyed his greetings to Jacque Dalores, President of the Commission of the European Community.

Ataul Huq, Secretary to the President, Hassan Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Belgium, and Jacques Bailly, head of delegation of the European Community, were present in the meeting.

Biswas, Khaleda shocked at Saudi prince's death

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has sent a condolence message to King Fahd Bin Abdul Azziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia for the demise of Prince Saad Bin Abdul Azziz al-Saud, reports BSS.

In a message, President Biswas said: "I was grieved to learn about the sad demise of Prince Saad Bin Abdul Azziz Al-Saud. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant his soul eternal peace. May Allah give you and other members of the bereaved family strength to bear this great loss."

In a separate message sent to King Fahd Bin Abdul Azziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia condole the passing away of Prince Saad Bin Abdul Azziz Al-Saud.

In the condolence message, Begum Zia said: "I am deeply shocked and grieved to learn about the passing away of Prince Saad Bin Abdul Azziz Al-Saud. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant his soul eternal peace. May Allah give you and other members of the bereaved family strength to bear this great loss."

In a separate message sent to King Fahd Bin Abdul Azziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia condole the passing away of Prince Saad Bin Abdul Azziz Al-Saud.

In the condolence message, Begum Zia said: "I am deeply shocked and grieved to learn about the passing away of Prince Saad Bin Abdul Azziz Al-Saud. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant his soul eternal peace. May Allah give you and other members of the bereaved family strength to bear this great loss."

BNP workers directed to assist flood victims

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandker Mosharrat Hossain yesterday urged all irrespective of party affiliation to help the flood victims, reports UNB.

Dr Mosharrat, also a Joint Secretary General of BNP, in a statement directed his party workers and BNP front organisations to come forward in aid of those affected by flooding.

He estimated about two crore people in 25 districts of the country were affected by the flood and incessant rains over the last few days. The situation may deteriorate, he added.



A Bibortan Sangha procession in the city yesterday demanding security of the children in Boina. — Star photo

JS body formed to upgrade tele-service

The thirteenth meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications was held yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Post and Telecommunications Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed the problems prevailing in the telecommunications sector and ways and means to solve those problems.

A three member sub-committee of the Parliamentary Standing Committee was formed in the meeting to improve the service quality of the telecommunications sector. The committee will submit a report within three months and make recommendations to improve the overall service quality of the telecommunications network. It will also recommend measures to promote competitions in the telecom sector.

BTV	
Sunday	
5:00	Opening announcement Al Quran Programme summary
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Recitation from the Bible
5:25	Educational programme: Let's Watch
5:40	Sports Programme: Cricket World Series Cup
6:25	West Indies vs Pakistan Jiboner Janyo: Health programme
6:55	Open University
7:25	Tagore Songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Probaha: Current affairs programme
9:00	Film: Raven
10:00	News in English
10:30	Surobari
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:45	Closing

Weather Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Due to monsoon low pressure over the country, moderate rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at most places over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday).

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Heavy rainfall warning: Moderately heavy to heavy fall is likely at places over the country during the next 24 hours. The country experienced small amount of rainfall at places yesterday. Chief amounts of rainfall recorded during the day were: Dhaka 14 mm, Iswardi 12 mm, Satkhira and Jessore 11 mm each, Feni 10 and Barisal 9 mm.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in 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	28.7	25.0	97	92
Chittagong	30.8	23.0	84	85
Rajshahi	30.5	25.4	90	98
Barisal	29.0	24.0	98	88
Khulna	28.6	24.5	90	89
Cox's Bazar	30.0	24.0	88	85
Sylhet	31.5			87
Dinajpur	31.5	25.2	80	73



A glimpse of a week-long exhibition of pottery and ceramic lamps at La Galerie at Gulshan yesterday. — Star photo

Keep legacy of DMC's public service on: Badruddoza

The Deputy Leader of Jatiya Sangsad, Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, yesterday called for maintaining the highest standard of education and service of the Dhaka Medical College, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a function marking the 47th founding day of the Dhaka Medical College and reunion of the old and new students of the college, Prof Chowdhury who is also an old student and former Professor of the DMC urged all concerned to maintain the heritage of the college as the unique centre of public service.

Presided over by the Principal of the college, Prof Zahurul Maula, the function was addressed, among others, by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Huq and Director General of Health Services Prof Nurun Nabi.

A large number of old and new students of the college attended the function which was ceremonially inaugurated by three oldest students belonging to the first batch of the college by cutting a 47-pound cake. The oldest students are Prof Abu Ahmed Chowdhury, Prof

Mirza Mahzaharul Islam and Prof T A Khan.

Recounting his memories in the Dhaka Medical College both as a student and a teacher Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said the students of the college had always played a glorious role in different democratic and pro-people movements since it was set up 47 years ago. The students of the DMC can take absolute pride for their role in the historic Language Movement, he pointed out.

Referring to the policies being adopted by the present government for the improvement of the country's health services, Prof Chowdhury suggested that the Dhaka Medical College should provide better post-graduate services and improved research facilities.

He pleaded for adopting a people oriented approach giving emphasis on preventive medicine sector.

The Health and Family Welfare Minister, in his speech, said the government would initiate a new programme soon to bring about a radical change in the medical education and treatment system.

He said the present government was trying its best to improve the situation in the med-

ical and health sector. In this connection, he sought all out cooperation from the physicians and medical students.

After the formal inauguration of the ceremony, the old and current students of the college brought out a rally which paraded different sections of the college complex.

Jute team leaves for Kenya today

A five-member delegation led by Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah leaves for Kenya today on a continental tour to develop market of jute and jute goods in several African countries, reports UNB.

The delegation includes Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation Chairman Moniruddin Ahmed, a representative from the Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) and two officials of the BJMC.

Happy Birthday
To
Jewel
From: Shahed & Daizy



MITSUBISHI LANCER

Vacations don't come often enough to be travelling any other way

RANGS LIMITED
113-116, OLD AIRPORT ROAD, TEJGAON, DHAKA-1215
PLOT 3, CDA AVENUE, SHOLOSHAHAH C/A, CHITTAGONG

CREATING TOGETHER