

## Dhaka Day by Day

# Amidst Concrete Jumble, a Ray of Hope for Addicts

by Shamsad Mortuza

One never expects a hospital in the middle of an industrial area. After all, a hospital is for sick people who need a little extra care in peace and tranquility to come round.

In 1988, when Central Drug Addiction Cure Hospital was established, the selection of the site, as it has appeared by now, lacked foresight.

Consequently, the country's biggest government-owned drug-cure centre now lies amidst the jumble of factories and industries in Tejgaon where the mechanical cacophonies are the all-time companion of the patients.

"I am not sure whether there is a hospital around here" said a owner of a tea stall only a block away from the well-protected treatment centre. A report of the hospital, however, reveals that at least 170 addicts get treatment from there every month. The 40-bed hospital has three qualified psychiatrists, six medical officers, 14 nurses, two occupational therapists with other supporting staff.

One has to register his name at the gate to enter the hospital, which, with all its security, the grills, iron shutters and the search lights, reminds one of the jail.

"We are never out of patients and often we have to turn back some," said one duty doctor.

"Extra security is maintained for the sake of the addicts .... you never know what they are upto," he added.

According to a recent report compiled by the director of the hospital, Professor Anwara Begum in the first four years period a total of 4328 drug addicts received treatment from the hospital. Of them, 1927 patients were admitted for detoxification while 2401 were detoxified as outdoor pa-

tient, but 332 addicts, however, went back to drugs in the post-treatment period. "We cannot follow up every patient after the treatment because of our shortage in manpower" conceded the director at a seminar only the other day.

"Ahsania Mission, a voluntary organisation, has stepped in to help the patients after treatment, we hope other organisations will come forward with similar intent," she added. Most of the patients (71.34 per cent) are within the 20-34 age group while 15.19 per cent addicts are from the 15-19 years age limit. There are 2.47 per cent patients below 15 years of age while the rest 11 per cent come from the aged group, according to the report.

Of the treated patients, 71.90 per cent were addicted to heroin, while 7.84 per cent to phenisidyl. The hospital also got patients addicted to cannabis, pathedine, alcohol, seductive tablets. Almost 30 per cent of the patients were either jobless or out of job, but most of the addicts have an income between Tk 1,000-Tk 3,000. Evidently, 38 per cent of the addicts have driving as their occupation. Most of them take heroin as their main drug along with alcohol and cannabis. These poly-drug addicts do not go for fancy drugs like phenisidyl or seductive tablets.

"The addicts take drugs as a pleasant respite from the turmoils of real life, but they all eventually tangle up with their lives .... once you are in drugs, it's really hard to get out of it," one doctor cautions.

"And mind it ... the detoxification process is not that easy .... we made it hard for the addicts to show them that you just cannot get curious and taste drugs."



# Lawyers urged to uphold rule of law

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon the members of the Bar to uphold the rule of law and help strengthen roots of democracy through their sincere support and professional dedication, reports BSS.

Democracy, the rule of law and development, he said, are essential for establishing justice and a stable society. It is only in a democratic system that peace and security can be ensured, Biswas added.

The President was exchanging views with a 13-member delegation of the Dhaka Metropolitan Advocates Bar Association led by its chairman advocate Alhaj A N M Yousuf at Bangabhaban.

President Biswas said that the lawyers of the country fought relentlessly in the past for restoration of democracy and the rule of law and they

were successful in their struggle. The lawyers, he said, have great responsibility in the democratic system and they should work for enhancement of the dignity of law and the legal profession.

The lawyers, President Biswas said, should help the government in institutionalising democracy on a firm footing and establishing a corruption free society.

He advised the young lawyers to devote themselves to learning the professional skills properly.

Earlier, the members of the delegation submitted a memorandum to the president and sought his help in building a permanent office of the association, a library with the required stock of books on law and a welfare fund. President Biswas assured them of looking into their problems.



Poet Nazrul National Award winner of '92-93, standing (left to right) Prof M R Khan, Mostafar Aminur Rashid, Dr Maliha Khatun, Dr Sultana Jahan, Asafuddin, Mosharraf Hossain, Ahmed Akbar Sobhan and Poet Shahabuddin Ahmed. Also a winner Mohammad Nasiruddin sitting beside President Abdur Rahman Biswas. Also seen in the picture (left to right) poet Abdul Khaleq, Justice Ruhul Islam and Dr Ashraf Siddiqui. — Star photo

## A section out to undermine BNP: Shawkat

The president of Dhaka city BNP Lt Gen (Retd) Meer Shawkat Ali, MP, Monday said that a section of people known for their corruption in the past were trying to confuse the masses by raising allegations of corruption in the government and creating terrorism and anarchy in the society only to undermine the successes of the BNP government, reports BSS.

General Shawkat was speaking as a chief guest at the Uttara thana conference of the party, Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas, MP, attended the conference as a special guest, according to a city BNP press release.

In his speech Mirza Abbas said that a reactionary circle were active to thwart the rise of nationalist forces. They were conspiring against democracy only to please their foreign master, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Salauddin Ahmed, MP, called upon the nationalist forces to strengthen the hands of Begum Khaleda Zia by joining the BNP.

Later, a 71-member Uttara thana BNP committee was formed at the conference with Khatun-e-Elahi Liton as president and Tariqul Islam Tareq as general secretary.

## Minor girl electrocuted

By DMCH Correspondent

One minor girl was electrocuted and a college student was injured by a stray built in separate incidents in the city Tuesday.

Farida, an 11-year-old maid got tangled with a faulty television antenna while sweeping the floor of a house at Motijheel Monday night.

She was declared dead by the doctors on duty when brought to DMCH. In another incident, Ashrafur Parhad, 18, a second year student of Dhaka College was hurt by a stray airgun bullet when he was sitting with his mother at his Central Road residence.

Farhad was in an unstable condition when report last came in.

## One injured

A Dhaka-bound bus from Syedpur turned turtle at Nabinagar killing one and injuring several others Tuesday.

Anwar Hossain, 55, helper of the ill-fated bus 'Royal Express' tried to jump off the vehicle but the bus fell on him, witnesses said. His body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

## UNDP painting, drawing competition

In observance of the UN Day 1993, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh will arrange a painting drawing competition for the high school students of class VI to class VIII of the Dhaka city area, reports BSS.

The ten best entries will be awarded certificates and prizes. The participating students of the competition are requested to take into account the following points:

Theme of the competition: People helping people. Size of paper: 20"X15" cartridge paper or any drawing paper. Medium: water colour or any drawing medium. Number of colours: Mono or multi colour. Last date of submission: 24 September, 1993. Place of submission: United Nations Information Center (UNIC), House 25, Road 11, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Entry limit: Maximum two entries each condition for best entries: Prize winners will be required to surrender their work to the United Nations as these will subsequently be forwarded to UN headquarters for possible use.

Each entry, duly attested by the head of the institution, should bear the participant's full name, age, class and the name of the institution with full postal address on the reverse side.

## Urs

The urs mubarak of Hazrat Rahat Ali Shah (RA) will begin tomorrow at the premises of the mazar of the late saint at Saifulah Kandi under Bancharampur police station of Brahmanbaria, reports BSS.

The week-long urs mubarak programme will begin through holding of a milad mahfil on the day 10:00 am at the mazar premises.

<b>BTV</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	
5:00	Opening announcement
	Al-Guran
	Programme Summary
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Recitation from the Geeta
5:25	Khelar Jagot: Sports Programme
5:50	Nibedon
6:55	Open University
7:15	Tagore Songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Biswas Parikrama
9:00	Film: The Fall Guy
10:00	News in English
10:30	Mukhomukhi
11:30	Khabor/The News
11:45	Closing

## Weather

# Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light to moderate rain or shower may occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal divisions and at a few places over Chittagong, Dhaka, Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday).

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country. The country's highest temperature yesterday of 34.6 Degree Celsius and the lowest 22.4 degree Celsius were both reported from Rangamati.

The Sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6:44 pm and rises tomorrow, (Thursday) at 5:26 am.

The chief amounts of rainfall recorded during the day across the country were: Khulna 8 mm, Satkhira 4, Patuakhali 3, Khepupara 2 and Bhola 1 mm.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.0	26.0	88	72
Chittagong	33.0	25.4	71	75
Rajshahi	31.6	25.1	86	79
Khulna	31.5	26.0	85	85
Barisal	31.4	26.2	85	91
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.5	73	74
Sylhet		25.1	71	72
Dinajpur	33.2	26.6	78	74

## BNP has bluffed nation, says Zillur

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman Monday called for a greater unity of democratic forces to end the 'neo-autocratic regime' of BNP, reports UNB.

"A change in the state power is now a must. Until this government is brought down, there won't be any change in the lot of the commonman," he told a public meeting at Narasingdi yesterday afternoon.

Rahman said ruling BNP has bluffed nation and resorted to anti-people steps causing economic hardship to the people, especially the farmers and workers.

To cover up its failure in resolving various problems during its two and a half years rule, the government has been hatching conspiracy to confuse people, the AL leader said, adding 'large scale corruption in the administration is eating the vitals of the society.'

He asked the people to join the movement under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina to ensure their economic emancipation.

Awami League leader Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP also addressed the meeting which was presided over by local leader Kazi Nurul Haq.

## Lanka may import rice from Bangladesh

Visiting Sri Lankan Minister for Food, Cooperatives and Janasaviya Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi Monday said his country was exploring the possibility of importing fine rice from Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He said this at a ministerial level meeting between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka held at the state guest house Meghna in Dhaka Monday afternoon.

The meeting discussed different bilateral issues to promote relationship between the two countries with the SAARC spirit.

Mallimaratchi expressed his thanks to his Bangladeshi counterpart for offering rice export and potato to Sri Lanka.

Referring to the trade liberalisation policy existing in both the countries, the minister said the trade possibilities and

technical cooperation would get a momentum in near future.

Referring to bumper crop production in Bangladesh, the Sri Lankan Food Minister also showed keen interest to exchange views on production pattern, food procurement and preservation system.

Food Minister M Shamsul Islam said the present BNP government has taken different reformative programmes which have already started to yield positive results in our production sectors particularly in food sector.

He mentioned that such a meeting could help us in finding out ways and means to alleviate poverty from this region.

The meeting made an exclusive follow-up of the recently concluded third JEC meeting between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

## PM gives Tk 1 lakh to Shaheed Matiur Rahman's father

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia handed over a cheque for Taka one lakh to Azhar Ali, father of Shaheed Matiur Rahman at her office yesterday, reports BSS.

A piece of three khata land will be purchased in Mymensingh town for the family of Shaheed Matiur Rahman with this money. Shaheed Matiur Rahman, a student of Nabakumar High School, embraced martyrdom during the '69 Mass Movement against Ayub regime.

The cheque handing over ceremony was attended, among others, by Social Welfare Minister and Minister in-charge of Relief Tariqul Islam, Social Welfare Secretary Fariduddin and Director of Shishu Academy Golam Kibria.

## Biswas, Khaleda greet President PM of Peru

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has greeted President Alberto Fujimori of the Republic of Peru on the occasion of the Independence Day of his country, reports BSS.

In a message to President Alberto yesterday, President Biswas wished him good health, happiness and long life and the people of Peru progress and prosperity.

In a similar message, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated Prime Minister Dr Oscar De La Puente Raygada of the Republic of Peru on the occasion of the Independence Day of his country.

In the message to Prime Minister Raygada yesterday, Begum Zia wished him good health, happiness and long life and the friendly people of Peru peace, progress and prosperity.



Sri Lankan Minister for Food, Cooperatives and Social Welfare Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi visited a handloom industry run by BRAC at Manikganj yesterday. — PID photo