

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Badamwallah Takes Life in His Stride

by Raffat Binte Rashid

Fertwallahs add distinctive sounds — if not a great sight and colours — to this noisy metropolis. Without the badam, jhalmuri or chat-patiwallahs (vendors of peanut, fried rice mixed with pepper, a cocktail of pulse with sour flavour), not to mention the other vendors, the city would be a much poorer place, speaking in terms of its own special character. In fact what's Dhaka minus the hubbub and chaos we are all so accustomed to?

It is impossible to imagine the university campus, the cinema halls, the parks or even the lazy evenings at home without munching badam or jhalmuri. The badamwallah with his jhuri (basket) or van full of roasted peanuts or groundnuts and others and tasting spices announces his ubiquitous presence almost in every conceivable place of the capital. There are people who make it a point to have peanuts almost everyday. "I sell badam in a few selected areas and to few permanent customers," said Babul a vendor, "actually, among us we have an unwritten deal to divide the city in various parts among us and we hawk about only in those parts. For example, the one selling badam in front of garment factories or within the city lanes cannot dare go near the parks, for the parks or public places are perma-



nent areas for other vendors. It all works mutually among us, Babul added laughingly. Babul is different from his fellow working partners. He is not one of those occasional vendors who sell peanuts when other business look bad. From the look of him, it is quite impossible to imagine that he is actually the owner of a wholesale peanut shop. And has about 100 such badamwallahs like himself, working for him on a regular basis. His story is very astonishing. "Nine years ago I left home following a fight with my father and came to this city with only 2,000 taka as my capital. I tried many jobs but ultimately I thought of being my own boss. I borrowed 5,000 taka from a friend and with few others started selling badams. Initially, I bought my stocks from the city market which was costlier but now I bring them from

my home town, Brahmanbaria. There, a maund almost 40 kg costs 850 taka including train fares and all other charges, which is cheaper than the price here. I bring in 10 sacks this stock lasts for 20 days, then I bring in fresh supply, Babul informed.

"Every day I have a profit approximately 150 taka and monthly it varies from 1700 to 2000 taka. This I get only from selling peanuts myself. Besides I have around 100 vendors working for me, I collect charges from them and also profit from my wholesale operation," he said making the calculation.

This success was only due to his sharp and keen business sense. He didn't waste time and youth fretting over what to do. Babul is very enterprising, his business flourished because of his sincerity and hard work and, of course, respect for labour, no matter how low or trifling it is.

Finally his father and four brothers reconciled with him and turned it into a big family venture. He has been renting a big room for Tk 1400 inclusive other charges. He has gas stoves as well as mud ovens to roast the nuts. "This is sort of a factory" he said proudly.

Besides, back at home, where his family lives, he has few acres of land where he does farming. So for six months he is a badamwallah and for the next six months he is a farmer. "We don't have to buy rice at all, our harvest lasts us the whole year," Babul said.

When asked why he still prefers to remain a badamwallah, "I am not ashamed of being a simple vendor, many people questions me, they think that I am a miser and its low of me to do such a job. Actually they don't understand, but I am not bothered about what they say. I started with this I'll end up with this," it's a vow Babul is determined to carryout.

Confident, practical, modest, and a self-made young man, Babul has not just proved a point to himself but has also left a lesson for the huge army of unemployed youths of this country: one of the most populous in the world.



The newly elected CBA leaders of Janata Bank called on AL Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at the latter's Minto Road official residence yesterday.

### Heroin worth Tk 1cr seized in Rajshahi

KHULNA, Aug 9: One kilogram of brown heroin, worth an estimated Tk 1 crore, was recovered in a combined raid by the Narcotics Control Department and BDR in Rajshahi town today, reports UNB.

The Rajshahi Narcotics Control Department informed its Khulna office that they seized two packets containing 500 gram of the drug each from a house in Bahrampur area of the northern town.

One person, named Saidur Rahman, was arrested in the raid conducted on a tip-off.

The Assistant Director of Rajshahi Narcotics Department led the operation.

### Menon back home

Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon returned here yesterday morning after medical check-up at the King's College Hospital in London, reports BSS.

The party leaders and workers and members of the family received Menon at the Zia International Airport.

Menon said Professor Roger William and Surgeon K C Ten had expressed their satisfaction after examining him at the King's College Hospital.

Addressing a gathering organised by the five-party alliance at the Toyenbi Hall of London Saturday, Menon explained the political situation in Bangladesh.

Menon had received bullet injuries when an attempt was made on his life by some miscreants in Dhaka on August 17 last year.

### Govt hailed for fixing new banking hours

Mahbubur Rahman, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), yesterday hailed the government decision to extend the banking hours for public transaction from 9-00 am to 3-00 pm, reports BSS.

The decision to form a "Foreign Exchange Dealers Association" to develop the inter-bank foreign exchange market and for fixation of retail rates by the dealers instead of Bangladesh Bank is a positive step towards liberalisation of foreign exchange regulation, he said in a statement.

### Tariq visits Angona

The government has opened a display-cum sales centre 'Angona' here to create market facilities for women's in-home products and to help them associate with income generating activities, reports BSS.

Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday visited the centre, set up at the Women Affairs Department.

## Energy policy to be announced soon

The government will announce soon an energy policy encouraging establishment of power plants in private sector, said Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain here yesterday, reports UNB.

"We have already signed a memorandum of understanding with an American power generation company for setting up a 300-megawatt power plant in private sector," he said at a reception accorded to him by the newly elected office bearers of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Held in his conference room at BTMC Bhaban, the function was chaired by new BGMEA President Redwan Ahmed MP and also addressed by SM Shahidul Haq, Kazi Montruzzaman and Anisul Huq.

The Minister said there is a huge system loss in the power sector which now stood at 33 per cent, down from 43 per cent two years back. "But the system loss, which we can call technical loss, is not more than 15 per cent in any other country, but it is high in Bangladesh because of pilferage of power."

"A vested quarter, including some PDB, employees, officials and consumers, are involved in this theft," he said, adding necessary measures would be taken to reduce further this huge system loss.

Referring to loadshedding in Dhaka, Mosharraf said although there is no loadshedding in the country now, heavy demand of power and overload on the electric lines caused the frequent power failure in the capital.

Massive programmes would be taken for restructuring the electric supply system in Dhaka which will ensure steady supply of power in the capital, he assured.

Lauding the role of garment sector of the country, the minister said the booming industry played a vital role in developing socio-economic condition of Bangladesh. "The nation is proud of the garment industries as it has achieved a prestigious place in the international market despite various constraint."

Redwan Ahmed, in his speech, said the government had declared textiles as thrust sector, but there was no investment in the textile industries.

He blamed the government policy for lack of investment in the textile sector and said BGMEA would place its recommendations soon for expansion of this sector.

### PM opens FBCCI convention tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent  
A two-day national convention of businessmen will begin in the city tomorrow (Wednesday).

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the convention organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at the Sonargaon Hotel.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, Commerce Minister MK Anwar and Planning Minister AM Zahuruddin Khan will also be present on the occasion.

Organised to celebrate two decades of the founding of FBCCI (1973-93), the convention will be participated by about 500 delegates from around the country.

The convention will be divided into four business sessions and will evaluate the development of the country's economy, trade, industry, human resources and labour-management relationship during the last two decades.

### Mostafiz greets Hata

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman has congratulated Isotomu Hata on his appointment as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Japan, reports BSS.

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Fourth Death Anniversary of Laila Samad Today 10th August

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Relatives and Friends

### Tree plantation begins at BB

A week-long plantation programme of Bangladesh Bank began here yesterday, reports UNB.

The Governor of the Bank Khorshed Alam inaugurated the programme by planting a sapling in its premises.

### Foreign Service official awarded at PATC

By Staff Correspondent.

BCS (Foreign Service) official Hamidur Rashid was given the Rector's Award as the best trainee in the eleventh foundation training course at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre at Savar yesterday.

State Minister for Establishment Barrister Md Aminul Haq, as chief guest in a convocation ceremony handed over the award to Hamid for receiving the highest mark among 179 other BSC officers.

The programme chaired by the Centre's Rector Kazi Muhammad Manjur-e-Maola was addressed among others, by course adviser Mosharraf Hossain and Md Abdur Razzak.

### Mongla Port Authority problems discussed

A meeting of Ministry of Shipping was held yesterday at the conference room of the Ministry with State Minister for Shipping Harun-Al-Rashid in the chair, reports UNB.

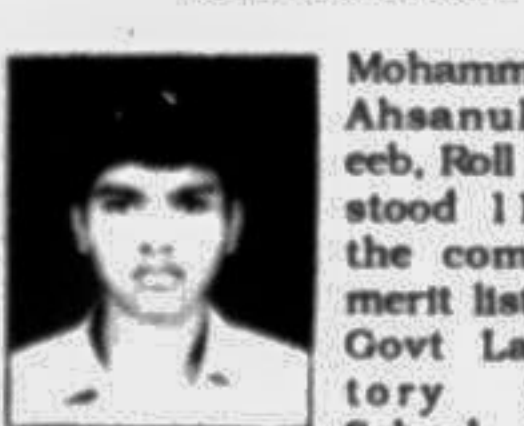
The meeting discussed various problems faced by the Mongla Port Authority (MPA) in smooth functioning of global exports and imports and tried to find out solution.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman was also present in the meeting. He was apprised of various problems of Mongla Port. The Foreign Minister said, development of Mongla Port is essential for regional development as well as national economy.

The meeting discussed on coordinated and maximum use of 'Khanak' a dredger of the Chittagong Port. It was decided in the meeting that the Khanak would be engaged for three months on trial basis in near future for dredging of Mongla Port channel.

It was also decided in the meeting that Mongla Port Authority would provide river-craft for floating police stations in order to ensure security to marine vessels.

### SSC star



Mohammad Ahsanul Adeb, Roll 11182 stood 11th in the combined merit list from Govt Laboratory High School securing 906 marks with letters in all subjects, says a press release.

He is the son of Md Abu Yusuf, Associate Professor of Kabi Nazrul College and Redwana Akhter, Assistant Professor of Eden Girls' College. Adeb wants to be a scientist.



### Tuesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement
- 5.00 Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Goeta
- 5.25 Esho Para Shikhi: Mass education programme
- 6.00 TV debate competition
- 7.00 Open University
- 7.25 Sangeta: Modern songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Drama serial: Kothao Keu Ney
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Special programme to celebrate the birth anniversary of Sri Krishna
- 10.55 Film: ENG
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.45 Closing



State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haq handing over the Rector's award to Hamidur Rashid in the eleventh foundation training courses at the Public Administration Training Centre at Savar yesterday.

### Weather

## Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm today (Tuesday) says, light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Barisal, Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions.

Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

The country's highest and lowest temperature yesterday of 34 and 22.2 degree Celsius respectively were both recorded in Rangamati.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6:36 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5:32 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.8	26.5	92	76
Chittagong	31.5	24.5	77	78
Rajshahi	30.5	27.1	95	90
Khulna	33.5	26.5	86	86
Dinajpur	29.0	26.4	89	89
Sylhet	32.5	25.1	89	78
Cox's Bazar	31.5	25.4	78	82

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