

# Dhaka Day by Day

## 'Voting With Their Feet'

by Parveen Anam

Vote is a basic civic right, as we all know. The Constitution describes it as such and the politicians love to remind us of it again and again especially at election time; how it is our most fundamental right, how the right of franchise or the right to vote is the most basic and important of our rights, etc, etc. And most important of all, how we must exercise it, come what may.

Voting can actually take many patterns, these days. There is the 'voice vote' or the type of vote where the voters say a resounding 'aye' or 'no' whichever their preference. Then there is the vote where hands are raised and counted, both for and against the motion, a type much preferred in schools during debates. And, of course, last but not least the proper secret ballot which determines the future of governments.

The type of vote, however, with which the beloved Dhakaites is least familiar with, is the most complex and yet the most expressive. Take a little drive past any of the Embassies especially a few select Western ones or of the inevitable 'brotherly, friendly countries' and your system would be in for a rude shock. Thousands of our brethren standing in line for hours, regardless of hail or shine, rain or storm, for the 'golden visa', in a very explicit vote against the capabilities of this land provide them with a means of sustenance.

They will wait patiently for days, to be granted the privilege of an 'alien status' in a foreign land, as a second class citizen to scrape a living for themselves and their families. If necessary, they would stoop to any depth to acquire that little visa which they think would let them into foreign shores. We must remember that the visa alone does not necessarily ensure guarantee of entry into the desired land of 'honey and gold.'

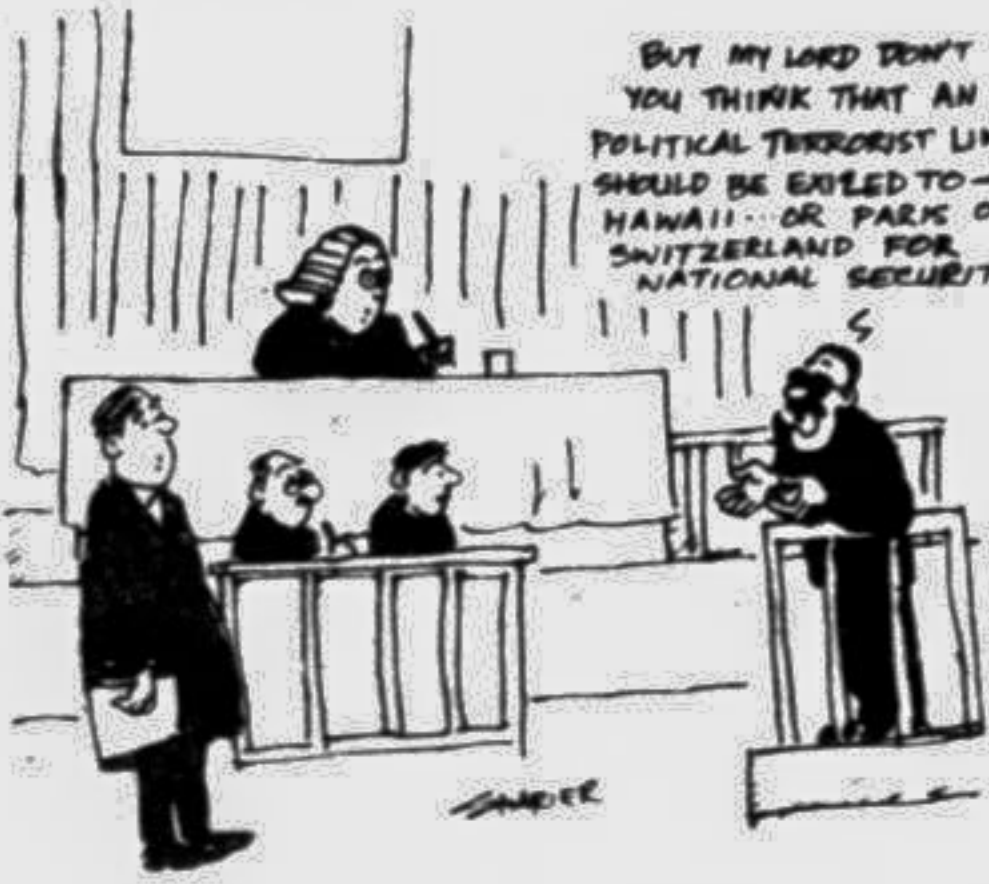
The ultimate authority does lie with that little immigration man behind the little desk at whichever airport the harassed citizens of this land manage to land.

Yet, they will take their chances. What in the entire process, however, fascinates the saner thinking elements is not that the 'citizens' desire to visit foreign lands. It is the number in which

they want to visit. It is a wonderful idea for them to want to travel and broaden both their outlook and mind. What gives us the little niggly feelings in the pit of our stomach is why do they want to do it in such vast numbers?

They will harass the officers and employees of these Embassies almost beyond the point of endurance for the visa not realizing in their zeal that it is entirely beyond their control anyway to grant them that visa. If they meet the requirement and satisfy the interviewing 'consular section' the authorities are more than happy to grant them their visa.

But perhaps it is time for the 'real authorities' to wake up and take note of the entire situation; and realise that this mad rush for visas an indirect expression of lack of faith in the capabilities of the said 'authorities' to provide these citizens with the means of a basic livelihood, within their own shores? And isn't that message now being expressed by this rather frenetic desire to depart the shores of the motherland for the unknown? This is indeed what 'voting with their feet' is amounting to. What a way to show supreme powers the lack of confidence the masses have in their capability to provide them the basics of life in their own beloved land. Perhaps those in power should all wake up and take note. And 'better late than never,' we might just add on the side.



## Post, Telecom Ministry's ADP reviewed

A review meeting of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication was held at the conference room of the ministry with Post and Telecommunication Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting was apprised that under the current financial year the ministry has taken up 12 projects, out of which nine are ongoing and three are new, the total allocation for this year is Taka 236 crore which includes an allocation of Taka 30 crore for the modernisation of Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS).

These projects include, among others, installation of 60 thousand digital lines in Dhaka city, 30 thousand digital lines in Chittagong, digital microwave link between Dhaka-Mymensingh, Bogra and Dhaka-Sylhet, establishment of a standard 'A' satellite earth station in Dhaka, installation of 130,000 digital telephone lines throughout the country.

The minister emphasised the need for timely completion of all the projects and ordered the relevant authorities to take all necessary steps in this regard.

## Biswas, Khaleda greet President, PM of Congo

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated President Monsieur Pascal Lissouba of the Republic of Congo on the occasion of the National Day of that country, reports BSS.

In a message to President Lissouba yesterday, President Biswas wished him good health, happiness and long life and the people of Congo continued peace, progress and prosperity.

In a separate message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia also greeted Prime Minister Monsieur Joachim Yombi Opango of the Republic of Congo on the same occasion.

## Rallies at DU in support of today's hartal

By DU Correspondent

The pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) yesterday held a rally on the Dhaka University campus in support of today's hartal.

The BCL leaders in the rally held in front of the DUCSU building urged all including the student community to make the hartal successful.

The rally was addressed, among others, by the BCL (M-I) leaders Pankaj Debnath and K H M Liza.

Meanwhile, the Montu backed Chhatra League (M-L) also held a rally on the university campus demanding trial of the killers of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The leaders in the rally also demanded establishment of the rule of law in the country.

The BCL (M-L) rally held in front of the arts building was addressed among others, by Abu Taher, Azad and Arju.

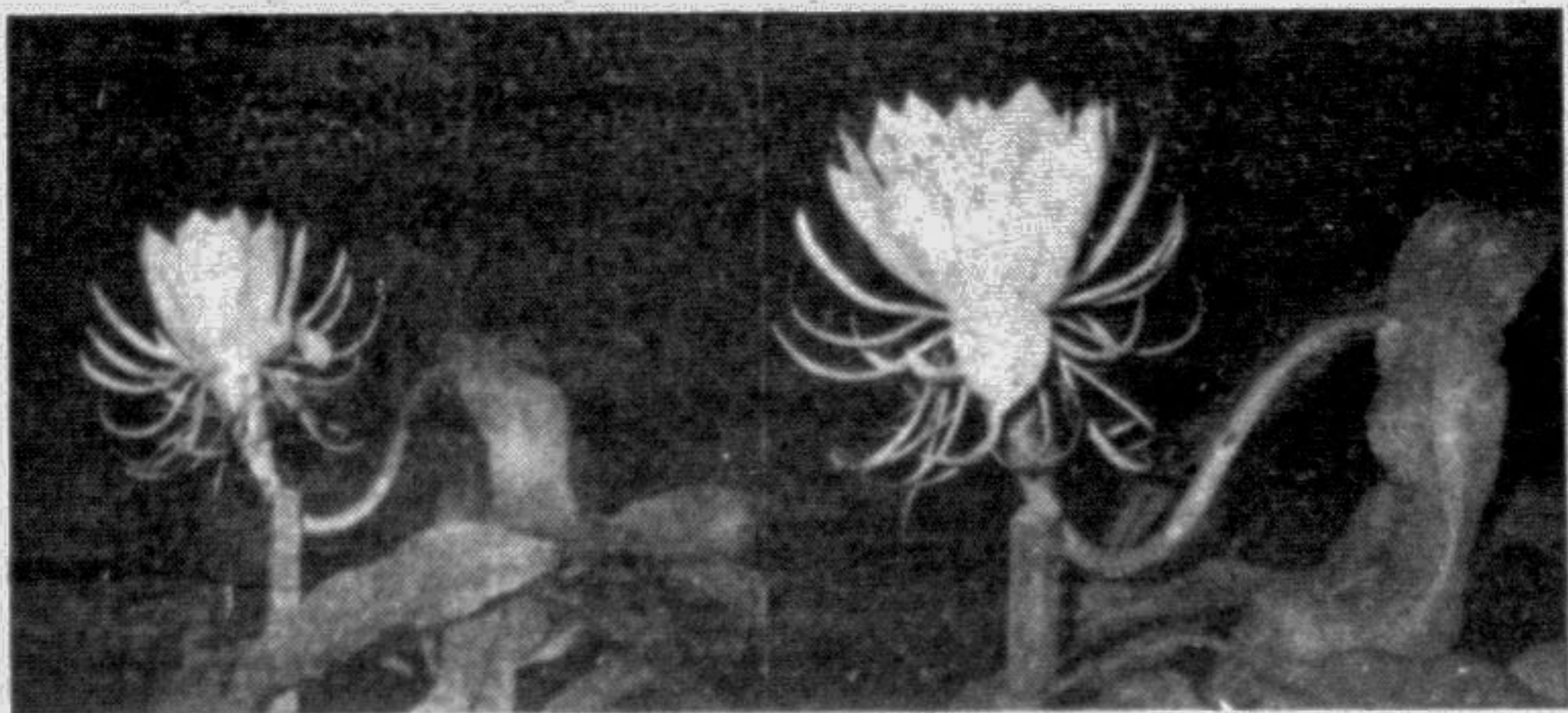
## Directorate of Public Library invites book-list

Directorate of Public Library will buy books for the years '93-'94 for its 66 public libraries all over the country, says a press release.

The Directorate invites the list of books published in '92 from the interested persons and organisations.

The list of books should bear the name of writer, publisher, time of edition, price and mailing addresses.

The list must reach the following address by August 30, Directorate of Public Library, Shabbagh, Dhaka.



Queen of the night in full bloom

## Queen of the night

Star Report

It is not everyday that we hear a Night Queen is blooming. But we were pleasantly surprised to receive the news Friday night that this was happening in the small balcony of Ferdous Ara Mamoon at Dhanmandi.

Night-blooming cereus also called Moon Cactus blooms once in a year. The process begins normally after sunset and the flower blooms to all its glory around midnight.

Ferdous Ara Mamoon, wife of noted newscaster Serajul Majid Mamoon, has a rooftop garden where she grows, just as a hobby, lemons and guava and spectably roses all round the year. And in the small balcony of their big house she has a variety of cactus plants most of which are in full bloom these days. It is a rare sight — so many species of cactus and orchids flowering in a variety of colours, almost at a time. She bought this Selenicereus grandiflorus plant from a local nursery in April this year and she is very lucky to have the plant bloom in five months. The plant will not be more than 18 inches tall.

The night queen, according

to Encyclopaedia Britannica is also known as Moon Cactus, any member of the cactus genus Selenicereus, with about 20 species, family Cactaceae. The plants are native to tropical and subtropical America, including the West Indies. They are widely grown in suitable American climates and have escaped from cultivation. The genus is known for its large, usually fragrant, night-blooming white flowers, which are among the largest in the cactus family. Some species clamber along the ground; others cling with aerial roots to trees and other objects. The queen-of-the-night (Selenicereus grandiflorus), the popular night-blooming cereus, is often grown indoors. Stems are ribbed, angled or flattened. S. hamatus has backward-projecting lobes that aid clinging.

But the flower grown in such care and tenderness normally lasts for the night only.

Who knows Ferdous Ara Mamoon may be lucky enough to see it for another night.

(Photographs taken by Adnan Mamoon at 10:30 pm (L) and around midnight Friday).

## Another dowry victim in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A sixteen-year-old girl fell victim to dowry in the city Wednesday. The victim, identified as Samsunnahar burnt herself Wednesday and died after a 72-hour struggle with death.

According to family sources, Samsunnahar eloped with her neighbour Kabir last year and secretly married without the consent of her parents.

However, at the intervention of family members, the newly wed couple was estranged from each other. A member of Samsunnahar's in-laws forced the girl to sign a blank paper, which eventually turned up as a divorce letter.

Kabir's family was asking dowry for the remarriage which resulted in the death of Samsunnahar.

A general diary was lodged with the Lalbag police station in this connection.

## Mostafiz greets new Lankan FM

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman has felicitated A C S Hameed, newly appointed Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, reports BSS.

In a message of felicitations yesterday, Mostafizur Rahman said 'Please accept my heartfelt felicitations on your appointment as Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka.'

## Three muggers held

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons were arrested under Anti-terrorism Act by Sutrapur Police yesterday afternoon for making a hijack bid on a rickshaw passenger.

According to police sources, Abdul Halim, a rickshaw passenger was waylaid by the three muggers at about 3.30 pm yesterday at Sutrapur in the city.

Local people, drawn by the hue and cry of Halim, managed to detain the muggers Ramzan, Zaim and Biswaji on the spot.

## CU exams

Terminal examination of the MA (Preliminary) students of the Department of Philosophy, University of Chittagong for the year 1991 will be held at the Arts Faculty building on August 29, 1993 from 9 am to 1 pm, says a press release.

Another press release said that terminal examinations of the Masters Degree final year students of the Department of Philosophy, University of Chittagong for the year 1990 will be held on September 4, '93 from 10 am to 1 pm.



- 5:00 Opening announcement
- 5:10 Al-Quran, Programme summary
- 5:20 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Recitation from the Bible
- 5:25 Educational Programme: Let's Watch
- 6:30 Health programme
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Tagore Songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Antorale Ami
- 9:00 Film: Raven
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Sur O Lahari
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing

## Weather

### Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

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

Met office forecasts day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded in Rangpur and lowest of 24 degree Celsius was recorded in Rangamati.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.32 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5.34 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage	6 pm
Dhaka	32.0	27.4	69
Chittagong	32.6	24.6	75
Rajshahi	33.8	29.5	74
Khulna	32.5	27.5	78
Barisal	32.2	26.8	84
Sylhet	31.6	27.0	75
Dinajpur	33.6	27.5	74
Cox's Bazar	31.6	25.2	77



The outgoing British High Commissioner in Bangladesh Sir Colin Henry Imray made a farewell call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. —PID photo

**Nilratan**  
Get Well Soon  
From: Colleagues in  
The Daily Star

Happy Birthday

To



**Munmun**  
From  
Abba, Amma, Dadu and Emon

## Tk 5.27 cr realised as land development tax in Dhaka

About Taka 5.27 crore was realised as land development tax in Dhaka district including the Dhaka metropolitan area in 1992-93 fiscal year, reports BSS.

This was revealed at the annual revenue collection meeting held here recently with Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Abu Solaiman in the chair.

The target of realisation of land development tax for 1992-93 was fixed at Taka 6.65

Call to enrich country's glorious cultural heritage

RAJSHAHI, Aug 14: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum has called for enriching and nourishing the long and glorious cultural heritage of the country so to be equal with the world civilisation, reports BSS.

She was addressing a function at Shilpakala Academy here yesterday.

Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Azizur Rahman MP, Professor Lutfunnesa Hossain MP and Divisional Commissioner M Aminul Islam, among others, spoke on the occasion.

crore. Besides, about Taka 1.60 crore was realised out of the outstanding dues of Taka 32.34 crore lying with various organisations.

The meeting observed that due to non-payment of outstanding dues the rate of realisation of the land development tax for the period could not be raised to a satisfactory level.

The meeting was informed that the Dhaka district administration has already brought the matter to the notice of the higher authorities.

## Need for setting up health bank stressed

Leading medical practitioners have stressed the need for establishing 'health bank' in the country which they thought would be specially effective in healthcare, reports BSS.

The suggestion came at a discussion on 'Practice in Family Medicine' and 'Health Economics: a Concept in Bangladesh' held here Friday.

They also discussed the method of treatment by the private general practitioners.

## জাতীয় শোক দিবসে আমরাও শোকাহত



প্রসিদ্ধ কাপড় বিক্রেতা

# চয়নিকা

রমনা ভবন ঢাকা