

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Gone is the Pied Piper

by Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury

While scanning through the memories of the good old childhood days, who could forget the existence of the toy-vendor that rotated each neighbourhood of the city and shook the entire being of a child with joy? Was there any voice more sweeter than theirs? Probably not. At least not to a child.

These toy-vendors were like the pied piper of Hamelin, who could lure the children out of their homes anytime. *Achhe Bachchader Khelna* (Toys for children) was a cluster of words that was enough to make children restless and start bulldozing their parents for some money to buy toys with, recalls a mid-aged Aminur Rahman with fondness.

"On the philosophical plain, I think these toy-vendors were the first persons to induce into the malleable mind of a child, the temptation of material possession, or what one may otherwise call, consumer interest. Now I feel this. But in those days, it was pure fun," he adds.

These small tradesmen of toys were a part and parcel of the life in Dhaka. A picture of this city, without their much loved and familiar faces would have remained greatly incomplete even a decade back. But now-a-days one could hardly hear the voices of these vendors that broke the stillness of the afternoon air and gave immense joy and pleasure to the children of

this urban habitat. The trade that was thriving even ten or twelve years back has now almost met its sad demise. One may very rightly wonder, why?

The toys that these vendors used to sell were mostly very cheap and with folk motifs. Paper masks, wooden guns, snakes and crocodiles made out of paper, yoyos, balloons etc were his commodities. Almost all the toys were manually operated. Now, it is the age of remote controlled or computerised toys. Cheap toys such as those do not arrest the attention of the city kids today. They would rather sit idly and do nothing than play with those 'childish' poultry toys. A video game serves their purpose today.

Treading a long way from my childhood days, I still wonder with a mixed feeling of awe and pleasure how the colour, texture and touch of those 'trivial toys' rocked our childhood days with joy," says Rahman in a nostalgic voice.

True, that toys sold by these vendors are not in keeping with the taste or class of the well off city lads. But how could we presume that every child of this city, or for that matter, their parents, could buy them sophisticated modern toys? Surely, some unfortunate ones are left out of the fun.

Actually, our cruel social order have always made sure that some are always deprived, while a handful gloated in joy. This disparity was

there yesterday, it is here today and Heaven knows when things will be set right!

"I grew up amid financial constraints; I could seldom buy the sort of toys which my friends had," recalls Kabir Ahmed, now a successful physician. He relates one incident, when as a boy his eyes were glued at a particular toy that these vendors sold. It was a steamer made out of cheap tin that ran on water on Kerosine oil. After a lot of insisting his mother gave him the money to buy the toy. But when he went to purchase the chosen item, he found that it was sold elsewhere. Even now, this grown up man cannot forget the pain he felt that day. It is

amazing to wonder that this successful man of today, secretly wept countless nights away as a boy, because he couldn't have his chosen toy many summers ago.

Frankly speaking, our constant crave for class and modernity has left petty trades such as these, brutally hurt. That is why this profession has become almost extinct now. These vendors have probably shifted to other lucrative professions. Or perhaps, they have gone to the rural areas where these trades still stand a chance. It is really hard to believe that gone are those toys and its salesmen who were probably the only enchantment our childhood had ever known.



SHARIF '93



State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahana Begum addressing a discussion in memory of poet Kaikobad at the Bangla Academy in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## State-run presses may go under single management

The thirteenth meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Establishment Ministry was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday with State Minister for Establishment Minister Md Aminul Hoque in the chair, reports BSS.

A report on the possibility of unification of Bangladesh Government (BG) Press, Government Printing (GP) Press and Bangladesh Security Printing Press under a single management was submitted in the meeting.

These three presses are entrusted with all printing works including secret and security printing of different ministries, divisions and attached departments.

Another report was also submitted on the introduction

of shifting duties for the officials and employees of the three presses with a view to reducing over-time expenditure.

The meeting was attended by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Taluker, Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Education Minister Barrister Jamir Uddin Sircar, Mohiuddin Ahmed and Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury of the Awami League, Dr T I M Faze Rabbi Chowdhury of the Jatiya Party and M Shamsuddin of the CPB.

Establishment Secretary Habibur Rahman and other high officials of concerned ministry were present in the meeting.

In the meeting, a paper was submitted on the activities of Bangladesh Stationary Office (BSO) and Bangladesh Forms

and Publication Office.

The BSO is collecting and distributing all office equipment and stationery materials to about six thousand government offices as per requirement.

It was also informed that the Bangladesh Forms and Publication office is supplying the standard and non-standard forms to the government offices on the basis of their demand. At present about two thousand standard and two hundred non-standard forms are being used in the government offices. The office has about five thousand publications including gazette, rules and regulations, acts and other government notifications.

The meeting was informed that in the financial year 1992-93, more than 12 thousand crore pages and over four lakh books had been supplied by this office.

## 2200 kg shrimp per acre produced this year

This year the country had produced average 2200 kg of shrimp per acre through semi-intensive shrimp cultivation this year ports BSS.

The was told in the 15th meeting of the Parliamentary standing committee yesterday on industries at the Sangsad Bhaban with the minister Shamsul Islam Khan in the chair.

The meeting had detailed discussion about the progress of semi intensive shrimp cultivation.

The government had already ensured bank loan, technological and other infrastructural facilities for the semi-intensive shrimp cultivation. It was also decided in the meeting that by next season semi-intensive cultivation would be expanded in the Patuakhali district.

Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee Syed Manjoor

Hosain, Mia Abdullah Wazed and Begum Shamsur Nahar Khawaja Ahsanullah of NBP, A S M Firoz of Awami League and Md Abdus Sobhan of Jamaat-e-Islami were present in the meeting.

Industries Secretary A H M Abdul Hye, two additional secretaries of the Ministry of Industries, Chairmen of BSCIC, BCIC, BSEC, BSFC and other concerned high officials were also present in the meeting.

## BCL observes 'Resist Razakar Day'

By Staff Correspondent

The pro-JSD (Ino) Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday observed its 'Resist Razakar day' throughout the country demanding a ban on the Jamaat-Shibir, Freedom Party and all communal politics.

BCL activists brought out a lathi procession from the Dhaka University campus in defiance of a police order.

The processionists marched through the city streets and dispersed near the National Press Club. BCL president Ruhul Quddus Babu and general secretary Abdullahil Quatium, addressing a rally held afterwards in front of the Press Club, urged the people to build a strong resistance against the communal forces.

Demanding a ban on politics by the communal groups, the BCL leaders urged the students to launch a massive campaign against the anti-liberation forces.

## NBL executive summoned to appear before court

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 28: City Magistrate B K Shaha today issued a summons under Section 494 of the Penal Code against one Abdul Wahab and seven others of his family to appear before him tomorrow.

Abdul Wahab, a senior executive of the National Bank, and father of Hosne Jahan Kabita reportedly took her away from the house of her husband Fahmid and married her off to one Mostafa Khair, an employee of the IFIC Bank in Dhaka, allegedly without getting a divorce from her former husband.

Fahmid filed separate cases against the accused persons which were all dismissed.

However, the Rajshahi District and Sessions Judge Abdul Jalil received the cases on appeal.

Consequently, Magistrate Shaha issued summons instead of warrants of arrest against Abdul Wahab, Kabita, Mostafa Khair and five other members of Wahab's family.

## Seminar on 'rights of child' concludes

By DU Correspondent

The Director of the Bangladesh Shishu Academy Golam Kibria yesterday said a child without any feelings of patriotism could turn into a 'razakar' and indulge in anti-social activities.

He was speaking at a seminar on 'Child Rights in Bangladesh' held at the children's auditorium to the National Museum.

The speakers in the seminar also expressed views that the guardians should be aware of the rights of the children.

On the last day of the two-day seminar yesterday, organised by the Central Khelaghar Asar, Muhammed Irahadul Huq, Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Manzur-ul-Karim, an advisor of the UNICEF, were also among the speakers.

The General Secretary of Khelaghar Asar, Abdul Aziz presented the key-note paper while Asar president Professor Ali Aaghar presided.

The Shishu Academy Director also said that there were few examples of awarding punishment to the persons, involved in smuggling and repressing children in the country.

He, however, asked whether the persons responsible for provoking communal feelings in children were punished. Abdul Aziz, in his key-note address mentioned that about 30,000 children in the country became blind every year through Vitamin A.

## Tk 27 crore allocated for flood victims

The government has so far allocated around Taka 27 crore: 83 lakh for the flood victims in the 33 affected districts of the country, reports BSS.

The allocation included cash amount, grants for house reconstruction and relief materials including rice, wheat and clothings.

The death toll due to flood since June 1 was recorded at 162, while the number of the flood affected people is a pound 1,15,59,586.

During this period 23,611 people were attacked by different diarrheal diseases of whom 224 lost their lives.

The most affected districts are Kurigram, Netrokona, Feni, Sunamganj, Habigonj, Sylhet, Brahmanbaria, Maulvibazar and Kishoreganj.

Crops on 5,21,640 acres were partially and on 7,78,513 acres completely damaged due to the flood. A total of 6,15,335 houses were partially damaged while, 2,34,393 houses were destroyed completely.

The flood situations all over the country is now almost normal and several medical teams are on duty where there are attacks of diarrheal diseases.

Meanwhile, according to a flood forecasting and warning division press release, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra registered rise at all point.

The rivers in the Meghna and south eastern hill basins marked rise and fall at different points.

The rivers those are flowing above the danger level yesterday included the Kaliganga at Taraghat in Manikganj (1cm) the Ganges at Bhagyakul in Munshiganj (3cm) and the Kushiya at Amalshid in Sylhet (3cm).

## Huda urges people to carry forward development activities

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday called upon the people to carry forward the development activities initiated by the present government, reports BSS.

He was addressing at the chief guest a tree plantation function arranged by the Bangladesh Kindergarten Association at Bashundhara Housing Project, Baridhara.

Happy Birthday  
to  
**T**  
With boundless love  
from  
**D**  
your **D**

IN MEMORY OF  
Tuli Kabir  
  
"YOU ARE IN OUR HEART"  
3rd death anniversary of  
Tuli Kabir falls on 31-8-93  
and a Milad will be held after  
Asar at 98/A, Lake Circus,  
Kalabagan, Dhaka.  
Shomi, Intiaz, Durba  
and  
Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury  
136, Housing Estate, Sylhet.

Attn: Garment Factories  
Urgently seeking reliable manufacturers of Barmop, Terry towels, Bath Robes, and Jogging suits. MD traveling to EEC to confirm orders. ALSO INTERESTED QUALITY STK LOT ANY ITEM. Contact w/2 pce samples, & details by 2 pm 1/9/93. APTC INTERNATIONAL LTD Plot 8, Road 4, Gulshan 1, Phone 01052, Fax: 883543. S-273

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES  
The containerised cargo ex. M.V. KAGA V-30230 from Rotterdam, ex. M.V. HOECHST EXPRESS V-10332 from Busan, Hong Kong have been relayed to M.V. NGS RANGER V-5593 Imp. Rot. No. 689/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 29-8-93 from Singapore. Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.  
BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.  
103, AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA, CHITTAGONG. AS AGENTS: MITSUI O.S.K. LINES LTD., TOKYO. PHONES: 503317, 500686/88

বাংলাদেশ সিল্ক স্যান্ড সফটওয়্যার  
Head Office  
141-143, Motijheel C/A  
Dhaka-1000  
Time Extension of Tender for Software Procurement  
Opening date of our tender for the purchase of Commercial Banking Software has been refixed and it will be opened on 4th September, 1993. Other terms & conditions will remain same.  
Md Shahidul Islam  
Head of  
M&S Department  
Phone : 283369

NOTICE  
Artharin Adalat No. 2, Khulna  
T.S. 6/93  
Uttara Bank Ltd, Branch Office Sir Iqbal Road, Branch, Khulna. Plaintiff  
-VS-  
1. M/s. Aswan Enterprise Previous address Station Road, Khulna, Present address House No. 201/C, Road No. 12, Sonadanga Residential Area, Khulna.  
2. S.M.A. Wadud S/o. Late Deldar Hossain, House No. 201/C, Road No. 12, Sonadanga, Residential Area, Khulna.  
It is hereby informed the above defendants that the plaintiff has filed the above suit claiming Taka 11,91,872/- (Taka Eleven lac ninetyone thousand eight hundred seventy two) only. If the defendants want to contest the suit they are to appear in court on or before 4-9-93 and take suitable step in the case. Otherwise the case would be disposed of exparte against the defendants.  
By order of the Court  
Sherestadar  
Artha Rin Adalat No. 2, Khulna.



A procession on the occasion of the Eid-e-Miladunnabi in the city yesterday. —Star photo

## Programmes on holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi

The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, marking the birth and death anniversary of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), will be observed throughout the country on August 31 with due religious solemnity, reports BSS.

The day has been declared a public holiday. All newspapers and post offices will remain closed on the occasion. However post offices with GEP and EMS services will remain open while stamps and envelopes will be available from the mail and sorting counters as usual.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will give separate messages on the eve of the day.

Newspapers will bring out special supplements and radio and television will broadcast special programmes on the significance of the occasion. Special prayers and milad mahfils will be held in all mosques of the country wishing continued peace, progress and development of the country and the Muslim Ummah as a whole.

Meanwhile, various socio-religious organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the occasion.

The Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh has drawn up a 15-day Siratunnabi programme beginning on August 30 which will be inaugurated by the President at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

Religious Affairs Minister Keramat Ali will be present as the special guest while

Secretary of the Religious Ministry Al-Haj Abdul Awal will give the vote of thanks.

The Bangladesh Shishu Academy will hold a discussion at its auditorium on August 30. The Religious Affairs Minister educationist Dr Kazim Deen Muhammad and the Academy chairman Dr Begum Anwar Mansur will take part.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Islami Sangkriti Parishad held a week-long Siratunnabi programme at Abujar Gifari College here which concluded Friday.

With Parishad chairman Principal Ashraf Faruqi in the chair, the concluding function was addressed, among others, by Vice Chancellor of the National University Dr Abdul Bari, Barrister Tamizul Huq, principal of the College Zahurul Islam, Prof Asgar Ali and Moulana Sifatullah.

## Body found with stab injuries

By SSMCH Correspondent

A body of an unidentified young man was found by the wayside of Dhaka-Mawa highway yesterday noon.

Keraniganj police found the body with twenty-one stab injuries around the throat, according to medical sources.

A case was lodged with the Keraniganj thana, who sent the body to the Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## JUAC silent procession in city tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Jahangirnagar University Alliance Committee (JUAC) will bring out a silent procession through the streets of the capital tomorrow (Monday) demanding withdrawal of the cases filed against ten teachers.

This was decided at a meeting of the JUAC comprising JU teachers, officials and employees, yesterday with Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman in the chair.

The JUAC also demanded arrest of the 21 students against whom criminal charges were filed by the JU authorities for their terrorist acts on July 29 that precipitated the closure of the institution.

## Mugger caught red-handed

By Staff Correspondent

A teenager was caught red-handed when he tried to snatch a gold chain from a young boy at Sobhanban in the city.

Police said Raja, 17, attempted to flee with the chain from one Badhon near the Sobhanbag Community Centre Friday evening. Badhon's father Mahbub Elahi who was with him, chased and caught the mugger with the help of local people. A knife was found in his possession.

A case was filed with the Dhanmondi Police under the Anti-Terrorism Act.



5:00 Opening announcement  
Al-Quran  
Programme summary  
5:10 News in Bangla  
5:20 Recitation from the Bible  
Educational programme:  
Let's Watch  
5:40 Documentary: Crimes  
Against Humanity  
Masader Jarjo  
6:55 Open University  
7:20 Tagore songs  
8:00 News in Bangla  
8:30 Art-torale Ami  
9:05 Film: Raven  
10:00 News in English  
10:30 Surur Akash  
11:30 Khabor/The News  
11:45 Closing

## Weather

### Day temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

The sky may remain partly cloudy over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday) while light to moderate temporary rain or showers accompanied by gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong division at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Barisal and Khulna divisions.

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

The country's highest temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded in Satkhira and the lowest 23.2 degree Celsius was recorded in Rangamati.

The amounts of rainfall recorded during the day time across the country were: Rangpur 51 mm, Sylhet 37, Rangamati and Srimangal 21 each, and Dinajpur 14 mm.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6:20 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5:39 am.

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	31.6	26.0	89	79
Chittagong	31.2	24.3	82	78
Rajshahi	33.0	26.7	92	89
Barisal	32.0	24.5	88	79
Khulna	33.4	26.5	88	89
Cox's Bazar	31.0	26.0	77	80
Sylhet	28.0	24.5	98	90
Dinajpur	32.0	25.8	92	96