

Dhaka Day by Day

A Pied-Piper of Modern Times

by Raffat Binte Rashid

The 'pied piper' had the whole town of Hamelin under the spell of his flute. All the children of the town would blindly follow him to death without a second thought, but Nuru Miah a pied-piper of modern times is quite different. With his much softer and melodious tunes, the tricks he plays on his Ektara Behala (one string violin), he holds the power to mesmerize his young audience.

Those of us who heard him once find it quite difficult to forget the notes. The tune of the Ektara Behala reminds one of his father who in the 60's cast the same spell for the children.

This profession, as well as passion, for playing the one-string violin was handed down to him from Bachu Miah his grandfather. He is the actual innovator of this unique instrument. The usual four-string violin is totally different in shape from Bachu Miah's innovation, and much more sophisticated. Ektara Behala, as the name suggests has only one string of steel. The neck or rather the whole body of this violin is made from bamboo sticks cut in half that are not even painted or polished. The bow on the other hand looks very crude. The strings are of nylon arched together at both sides of the hollow box, there is placed a small bowl made of clay. The bowl is covered with a membrane usually obtained from cow hides. These hides are cleaned with salt and the membrane while still wet is placed tightly over the bowl which is tenacious and holds perfectly.

The bowl has two holes drilled at the bottom which fixes the wire and supports the neck as well. This is somewhat the description of Bachu Miah's awkward but unique one-string violin; and whatever purpose it is supposed to serve is very clearly audible. There is a small peg or bridge made of bamboo which he carries in his pocket and whenever he sells his product, he fixes the peg and rubs the nylon strings of the bow with raisin which he claims serves to the acoustic part.

To make about five hundred such violins I take 10 to 15 days and invest about Tk 6,000 and make a net profit of Tk 3,000 for every 500 pieces generally," said Nuru. A small piece he sells for only Tk 20 to 40 whereas for a big piece he asks Tk 200 to 300. "The selling

price depends on me and the customer as well. I might even ask Tk 1,000 for a big one from any foreigner," he informed. The production cost for a small violin is Tk 15 to 20 and big one Tk 150. He needs 10 to 20 bamboos for 500 products, 25 metre of cow hides and 15 metres of strong nylon strings and steel ones too. It takes, for Nuru 2 to 3 months to sell off the total 500 violins. "Selling depends on me, if I feel like going out I go and if I don't, I stay," he said.

Everyday he takes different routes and nearly walks through the entire town in seven days. "On Fridays and Saturdays I always go to Gulshan, Banani and such places," he confirmed, he has customers in the American and the British club as well. "Foreigners don't like painted things and so I keep them in its natural colour," he defended the crude look of his violin.

Nuru Miah a local resident of Mirpur is quite famous among the music lovers. Arrogant and confident, he is a man of integrity, he compares himself with some beggar in America and also draws the line of difference. "I play the tune and at the same time sell the product and do not beg for the reward of playing," he said. He loves children, they are always his companions in the street and sometimes he gives one or two violins free of cost to any poor child.

Father of three kids, Nuru believes that education is a must for his children. His daughter reads in class IV, eldest son in class II and the youngest son in class I. "I will allow my daughter to continue her studies upto whatever class she wants to read and think of her marriage only when I think she is financially independent," he stressed.

He has completed his primary education and seemed to be a man of great knowledge. He thinks very positively about the future of his kids. With a shrug he said "I believe that to be in my profession one needs a knack for it, my youngest might learn and take over the family heirloom but my eldest son shows no interest, he will do whatever pleases him," he said.

Nuru Miah is very much content with life and finds immense pleasure in playing his violin. His happy face is as priceless as his grandfather's Ektara Behala.



Nuru Miah playing on his Ektara Behala

Govt trying to improve people's condition: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said the present government is trying to improve the condition of 11.5 crore people of the country by ensuring food, shelter and education for all, reports UNB.

The government is doing its best for economic, political and social development of the country, he said adding 'one-third of our national revenue are now being spent for accelerating development activities.'

President Biswas, who came in Barisal on a two-day visit yesterday morning, was addressing the local elite at Ashwinikumar Town Hall.

The President observed that overall development of the country is not possible without educating the people. "So, the present government has given more emphasis on primary education."

Referring to the establishment of an administrative division in Barisal, President Biswas, who himself comes from Barisal, said it was in fulfillment of the long-standing demand of one crore people of the southern districts.

Presided over by Mujibur Rahman Sarwar, MP, the function was also addressed by Selima Rahman, MP, Mosharraf Hossain MP, B D Habibullah and Municipal Administrator Ahsan Habib Kamal.

Govt college teachers' nat'l confce Nov 9

By Staff Correspondent

The national conference of government college teachers will be held at the Engineers Institution auditorium in the capital on November 9.

The conference has been organised jointly by the Lecturers Association and the Professors Association of the government colleges.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar will attend the conference scheduled to begin at 9 am as chief guest.

Special guests on the occasion will be the State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan, State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Hoq and the former Chairman of Public Service Commission Prof Yeazuddin Ahmed.

President of both the associations, Prof Kamal Ataur Rahman will be in the chair.

A press release of the professors association said last night that teachers from 233 government colleges across the country were expected to attend the conference. The conference will discuss the teachers demands and issues relating to upgradation of professional dignity and educational standard, it added.

Winter likely to set in from December

Winter is expected to set in Bangladesh from early December this year at the end of the limping transition period from wet to dry season, says a weather expert.

"Because the dry continental air mass is gradually approaching towards south across Bangladesh, it will bring cold gradually over the country with time," Deputy Director of Storm Warning Centre at Met Office Sajedur Rahman told UNB Thursday.

Wet season is known, as south-west monsoon and dry season is called north-east monsoon period. The source of south-west monsoon is the oceanic region and that's why it is wet and humid in contrast to north-east monsoon from the land-locked Siberian region, which is dry in origin.

During the transition period, there will be remarkable difference between day and night temperature, he said.

Mist in the morning is expected during the period, Sajedur Rahman said.



A recitation of poems of poet Rudra Muhammad Shahidulla was organised in front of Teachers Students Centre (TSC) on the DU campus yesterday to mark the 37th birth anniversary of the poet. —Star photo

Discussion on Solidarity Day

CHITTAGONG, Nov 5: Speakers at a discussion on the significance of November 7 Revolution and National Solidarity Day — here yesterday called for promoting strong unity of all nationalist forces to consolidate national independence and sovereignty, reports BSS.

They said, November 7 revolution of soldiers and masses aimed at establishing identity of Bangladeshi nationalism.

The discussion held at Zila Parishad Hall here under the auspices of Nationalist Democratic Alliance (NDA) was presided over by its Chittagong district branch convener M Nurullah. "NDA central vice-president and KSP chief ASM Soltaman, former MP A K M Rafiqullah Chowdhury, Dr Muhammad Mahbubullah and Mahfuz Parvez of Chittagong University, former president of Chittagong District Bar Association Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmad Mirza and Advocate Abdus Sobhan took part in the discussion.

They called upon the people to remain alert against what they called a vested group engaged in dividing the nation and weakening the nationalist forces to achieve its selfish ends.

The November 7 revolution has given us a sense of direction to protect our national identity based on our own culture, religion, literature and tradition, they pointed out.

Kathin Chibara Dana observed

The Parbaty Bouddha Sangha yesterday observed a day-long programme to mark the Buddhist religious festival of Kathina Chibara Dana - offering of yellow robes to monks — at the Shakyamuni Bouddha Vihara here, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a seminar held on the occasion, Dhaka University Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Wakil Ahmed said the main theme of Buddhism is love for all which is very important in today's world gripped by violence and hostility.

He said the religion has another significance particularly for the people of this part of the world as it has contributed a lot for its cultural and literary development.

Prof Ahmed urged the followers of Lord Buddha to play their role for the development of the country.

Prof Niru Kumar Chakma and Prof Kazi Nurul Islam of Philosophy Department of Dhaka University, attended the function.

Apex District convention held

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah AJ-Noman yesterday said people should be well-organised to get benefits of various development programmes taken up by the government for socio-economic development of the country, reports UNB.

He was addressing as the chief guest at the 15th District-1 convention of Apex Club of Dhaka at a local hotel in the morning.

The Minister said many potential development programmes of the government become fruitless due to absence of well-organised initiatives of the people.

He said government has given various facilities including bank loan to encourage and involve people in dairy and poultry farming and pisciculture.

But there is not enough response from people as they are not well-organised to utilise the facilities, he said.

In this connection, he called upon the service-oriented organisations like Lions, Rotary and Apex to play due roles to develop country's socio-economic condition.

President over by the President of District-1 of Apex Bangladesh, T Ali Montoo, the function was addressed, among others, by Director of Bangladesh Television Salamata Ullah, President of National Committee of the organisation Mahfuzur Rahman and members of Apex family Ehsanul Kabir, Fakrul Islam, Shah Alam and Nasim Ibne Samad.

Biennial confce of Gazipur Press Club held

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rauf said in Gazipur yesterday that the journalists had significant role to play for nourishing and consolidating democracy, reports BSS.

Addressing as chief guest the inaugural session of the biennial conference of Gazipur Press Club Justice Rauf called upon the journalists to use their facile pen for composing "election literature."

Parjatan's food festival held at Mary Anderson

A colourful food festival and cultural function was held at Mary Anderson, a floating restaurant, Paglaghat yesterday in observance of the current Tourism Month '93, says a press release.

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain inaugurated the festival as chief guest while Salauddin Ahmed, MP, was present as special guest.

One electrocuted in city

By DMCH Correspondent

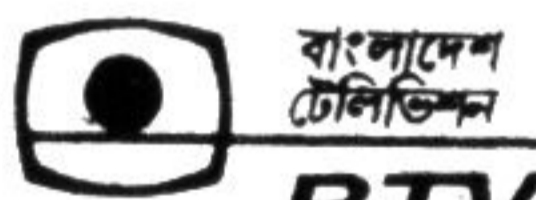
One person was electrocuted while another was robbed of his cash in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Sona Mia, 32, died when he got tangled with live wires at a building under construction at Mudgapara in the city in the morning.

An unnatural death (UD) case was lodged with the Sabujbag police and the body of the victim was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, a gang of miscreants reportedly assaulted one Siddiqur Rahman at Gabtali Bus Terminal and took away his cash of Tk 13 thousand.

Rahman came to Dhaka from Jessore to get a job, sources said.



Saturday

- 5:00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Surjamukhi
- 6:00 Cartoon
- 6:30 Tarunya
- 7:00 Bانشارة
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Mati-o-Manush
- 9:00 Dolon Chapa
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Film show: Dallas
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

The weather forecast for the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday) says, the sky will remain partly cloudy over the divisions of Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal and the weather is likely to remain dry over Bangladesh.

The Met Office forecasts, night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The highest temperature of the country yesterday of 31.2 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bogra and the lowest of 18.8 degrees in Rajshahi. The sun sets today at 5:16 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:08 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and the maximum and minimum relative humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/towns	temperatures in degrees Celsius		humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.5	20.2	70	80
Chittagong	30.6	21.0	80	73
Rajshahi	29.6	18.8	73	88
Khulna	30.6	21.2	80	79
Barisal	30.1	20.3	78	83
Cox's Bazar	30.0	22.0	73	77
Sylhet	30.9	19.2	78	77
Dinajpur	30.0	19.2	77	70



Lions Club of Dhaka Baridhara East and Lions Clubs International District 315 B 1 jointly organised an art competition at Shishu Academy on the occasion of October Service Week.

Sourcing/Quality Assurance Manager for Garment Buyer

A leading European Textile Retail Company invites applications for the above position, based in Dhaka.

The main responsibilities will be:

- Sourcing product for export to E.E.C. with emphasis on woven shirts
- Quality Assurance throughout the manufacturing process, final pre-shipment inspection, ORDER progress and shipping status reporting to European control office

The ideal applicant will be experienced in and have a sound knowledge of the shirt industry in Bangladesh.

They will also be energetic, show good initiative, be educated to a high standard and be able to converse both verbally and written in English

An attractive salary commensurate depending on experience are on offer.

If you feel you have the qualities we are looking for, please apply immediately in writing to the address below, enclosing your Curriculum Vitae and photograph.

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Chartered Accountants

52 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka

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