

Dhaka Day by Day

Waiting for the Mailman

by Parveen Anam

Modern man has at his disposal, the most wonderful of all facilities. He has the big aircraft to carry him to all corners of the globe within hours; how the ancient man would have loved those 'winged carriers' of the present day. Remember reading about him jumping off the mountain top in earnest efforts to fly like the bird? Poor chap.

They today's man has the wonderful telephone which brings the world to his fingertips. In the Bangladesh context, when it works, of course. But that is neither here nor there. Let us only sing praises of modern inventions. In fact, man is so fond of his telephone that he now has one installed just about everywhere. What a wonderful way to keep in touch.

But as all modern inventions are wont to do, it is the wonderful telephone, which is the cause of so much worry and loss of romance. The readers will raise eyebrows and say, 'Humph. Now what has romance got to do with telephones, they wonder? And the old-fashioned ones will nod their heads and say, 'I told you so'. But before we get into any argument, let us elucidate.

In days of yore, when phones were not in vogue, we sat down with pen and paper and wrote lovely long letters to the loved ones, around the world. The world of course then was also probably not very big, remember? But the letters meant a lot. Waiting for the postman was a joy in itself. The sheer pleasure of rushing to meet the mailman as he turned up at the gate, had to be experienced to be described. And then opening the letter with joy and trepidation and reading and rereading it a thousand times, savouring every line, every word as you visu-

alised the loved one, miles and miles away, was ecstasy.

Letters were kept for years, lovingly stored in boxes to be brought out when you were particularly sad or depressed, to cheer the soul up. The joy of writing and receiving letters can never be compared to a hasty telephone call, across miles.

The conversation is invariably bound to be stilted, with you shouting into the phone, with more often than not your own words being echoed back as both parties keep saying "How are you?" and "How are you?" There is so much to be said and so little time, with a terrific bill at the end of the month anyway. Again, at each call, there is a whole pack of relatives, cousins, aunts, all crowding around to say the inevitable "How are you?" Privacy, a concept quite alien to the average Bangalee mind at the best of times, seems to be totally absent when one is making a long distance phone call to the loved one, halfway across the world.

Letters of course are a different story. They are private and they are personal. Only meant for the one it is addressed to. Lovely, long descriptive letters are a delight any time, and treasured as few things are in today's fast changing, modern world. The love and affection expressed through letters, can never be expressed in a hurried telephone call. The information passed through the letter, would never be possible to impart in a hundred phone calls. Perhaps we should all sit down and make resolutions to keep up the glorious tradition of letter writing even at the cost of the telephone company sending us fictitious bills, for all the phone calls we refuse to make, to the loved ones, far away from home. Let us patronise the postman, and not the telephone-man for a change.



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10 left-leaning political parties brought out a procession in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Distortion of DU logo protested

By Staff Correspondent

Students of the Dhaka University, brought out a procession on the campus yesterday protesting distortion of the varsity logo by a weekly magazine.

The students, under the banner of 'Committee for realising the rights of general students', also submitted a memorandum to the DU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed demanding a ban on the issue and burnt some copies of the magazine.

Sources said, the weekly Jai Jai Din carried a cover story on campus terrorism replacing the DU logo of lamp, eye and lily with deadly weapons to symbolise the campus terrorism.

Steps on to enable BSEC units operate at breakeven: Lutfor

State Minister for Industries Lutfor Rahman Khan has said the government was considering to take appropriate steps to enable the losing steel and engineering units operate at breakeven within next few years, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a meeting of the directors and other high officials of the Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) on problems and strategies for the steel and engineering sector.

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industries Ataul Karim, Chairman BSEC A I M Najmul Alam and directors of the corporation were among those present in the meeting.

The minister said there had been a progressive deterioration in industrial sector during nine years of autocratic rule. The present government is trying earnestly to make the sick industrial units financially sound.

He asked the officials and managers of the steel and engineering units under the BSEC to take bold and imaginative steps to make these enterprises commercially viable.

He advised them to plan an integrated policy for resolving the crisis now prevailing in the steel and engineering sector as a whole.

He underscored the need for avoiding wasteful expenditures, minimising costs and reducing the total manpower to a tolerable level.

Ataul Karim informed the meeting that the government was examining the prospect of capital restructuring and rationalisation of financing policy of the Chittagong Steel Mills with a view to putting it on a sound footing.

Discussion on Faizunnessa held

RAJSHAHI Nov 14: A discussion on "Nawab Faizunnessa Chowdhurani" organised by Comilla Janakalayan Samiti in Rajshahi was held here at Rajshahi University Senate Bhavan, reports BSS.

Chairman, Bangladesh University Grants Commission, Prof M Shamsur Huq was the chief guest while Vice-Chancellor, Rajshahi University, Prof Anisur Rahman attended as the special guest. M Mazharul Islam was in the chair.

Prof Shamsur Rahman, Prof Amiruzzaman, Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam, Prof P C Sarkar, Dr Obaidul Huq, Dr Abul Bashar Mia, Prof Abdus Salam Bhuiya, Prof Abdul Awal, Prof Abu Talib and Dr Sultan Ahmed were among others who spoke on the occasion.

They lauded the role played by Nawab Faizunnessa in spreading education among the womenfolk in the country.

4 more foreign trawlers seized

KHULNA, Nov 14: Bangladesh Navy apprehended four more foreign fishing trawlers and arrested 91 crew members on Friday from near the Putney Island, reports BSS.

With this the total number of impounded vessels stood at 10 while the arrested persons numbered 213 from the Bay of Bengal within a short period.

BNS Shaheed Akhtar Uddin, a patrol craft of the Bangladesh Navy, impounded these fishing trawlers from the Malancha river mouth. These trawlers were fishing within Bangladesh territorial waters. The trawlers along with fish worth Tk 3.30 lakh were escorted to Mongla and were handed over to the local Customs authorities. The arrested persons were also handed over to the police.

Nat'l committee meet on World Confe of Women

The first meeting of national committee on the fourth World Conference of Women held at the Secretariat in the capital yesterday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman presided over the meet yesterday.

The World Conference of Women will be convened in Beijing, China in 1995.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Mainly dry weather with partly cloudy sky is likely over Bangladesh.

Met office forecasts day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Country's highest temperature of 31.4 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bogra and Chuadanga and lowest of 17.6 degrees Celsius was recorded in Dinajpur yesterday.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 5:13 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6:14 am.

The maximum at the minimum temperatures and the maximum and the minimum relative humidity recorded in some 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	30.0	19.8	73	76
Chittagong	29.0	18.8	78	70
Rajshahi	29.8	18.5	74	87
Khulna	31.0	19.8	-	82
Barisal	30.5	19.5	93	82
Sylhet	30.0	19.5	88	66
Cox's Bazar	31.0	19.0	63	61
Dinajpur	30.1	17.6	82	77

Call for consensus on main national issues

KHULNA, Nov 14: Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali today called for a consensus on the main national issues including steps to wipe out terrorism from society to create peaceful and congenial atmosphere towards attaining welfare of the people, reports BSS.

He also called upon the people, particularly the political conscious people, irrespective of party affiliation to shun all differences and express their sentiment against all sorts of violence and terrorism.

The Speaker was addressing a function at the local Model High School here to formally open an auditorium of the school.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Khulna Kazi Reazul Huq the function was also addressed among others, by Mayor of Khulna City Corporation, Shaikh Tayebur Rahman, Syeda Nargis Ali MP and headmaster of the school Abul Hossain.

The auditorium building was constructed at a cost of Taka 3.33 lakh. Referring to the various development programmes undertaken by the present government for bringing about a balanced development of the country, Speaker Razaque Ali underscored the need for construction of Rupsa Bridge and development of Mongla Port.

Speaking about the self-employment programmes of the people of the southern belt, of Khulna, he said that the government was making adequate provisions to help in the form of credit and input facilities particularly for setting up of salt industries and for shrimp culture.

Later the Speaker laid the foundation of the hostel building of Khulna Art College at Boyra.

Scott, Salam discuss Canadian assistance

The High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh, Jon J Scott, called on LGRD and Co-operative Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder at his secretariat office here yesterday.

They discussed matters of mutual interest, specially the matters relating to Canadian help and assistance in our rural development.

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A girl showing her arrangement of flowers at the Ikebana show held at the Gulshan Club in the capital yesterday. The Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation organised the show as part of the current Tourism Month '93 which ends today.

Ikebana show held

An 'Ikebana' show and competition in observance of the Tourism Month '93 was held in the capital yesterday at the Gulshan Club, reports BSS.

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz formally inaugurated the show as the chief guest.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan and State Minister for Women Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman spoke on the occasion as special guests.

In his inaugural speech, Mirza Hafiz said that flowers of various colours and fragrances had a great role to play in attracting tourists from home and abroad.

He underlined the need for expanding and promoting tourism facilities in order to boost national income and help alleviate poverty and unemployment.

Terming flowers the profit-making item, specially for the womenfolk, he called for comprehensive cultivation and nourishments of flowers.

Talk on Nazrul held

By Staff Correspondent

The writings of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam stirred the youths of his time, said the Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University (DU) Prof Emajuddin Ahmed at the DU Lecture Theatre auditorium yesterday.

He said this while inaugurating a 'Talk on Nazrul '93' organised by the Nazrul Research Institute. Dr Rafiqul Islam chaired the talk. The inaugural session was also attended by the Pro VC Wakil Ahmed with Prof Abu Rusud Matnuddin presenting the keynote paper of the day.

Alternative use of current net discussed

The 17th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan here Saturday with fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed ways and means to find out alternative use of current nets to allow fishing of small fishes and proposed to arrange free discussion with the leaders of fisherman community in this regard.

The meeting reviewed the progress of different ongoing projects of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and discussed ways and means to speed up their implementation.

The meeting discussed the report of the parliamentary sub-committee on three fish landing centres at Barisal, Khepupara and Patharghata. It instructed the Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC) to examine the suggestions incorporated in the report from technical point of view and submit a report in the next meeting.

The committee underscored the need for alternative use of Sunamganj Fish Landing as it failed to serve the purpose for which it was built.

Members of Parliament Dr Abdul Latif Bhuiyan, Begum Farida Rahman, Abdul Ghani and Sirajul Islam of BNP, Roushan Ali, Abdul Zahur Mia and Mostaque Ahmed of Awami League, Md Reazuddin Ahmed of Jatiya Party and Dabirul Islam of Communist Party attended the meeting. Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, A Z M Nasiruddin was present.

'Adarsha Ekush' gets Regimental Colour

A ceremonial parade marking the presentation of Regimental Colour to the 'Adarsha Ekush', a battalion of the East Bengal Regiment, was held at the Mymensingh Cantonment yesterday, reports BSS.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, who is also the colonel of the East Bengal Regiment, was present as the chief guest on the occasion and ceremonially handed over the Regimental Colour to the 'Adarsha Ekush'. He also reviewed the smartly turned-out parade and took salute at the impressive march past.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief of Army Staff called upon the members of the army to rise above self-interest so that they could achieve and maintain still higher standard of professional efficiency. Moral values, institutional loyalty, hard training and strict discipline are the basic qualities of success in the life of a soldier, he added.

General Noor Uddin said that the Adarsha Ekush received the Regimental Colour in recognition of their high standard of training, discipline and dutifulness. The Regimental Colour is a token of firm confidence and sincere trust of the army.

Recalling the contributions of the founder of the East Bengal Regiment — the late Major M A Ghani and the late M A G Osmani, he asked the members of the regiment to follow their predecessors' path and uphold the glorious history and tradition of the regiment.

Earlier, on his arrival at the parade ground, the chief of army staff was received by the local Area Commander Major General Muhammad Alnuddin, Bir Protik and the Commandant of the East Bengal Regimental Centre Brigadier Abu Ahmed Zahirul Amin Khan.

Adhunik's nat'l convention in Dec

Adhunik, a national anti-tobacco organisation, is planning a three-day grand national convention in the capital next month to popularise the campaign against smoking and create awareness about its hazards.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the convention which is to devise ways and means of carrying Adhunik's message: "Tobacco is deadlier than poison" and "We want a tobacco-free Bangladesh."

National Professor Nurul Islam, who is the president of Adhunik, announcing the programme of the proposed convention, told UNB Saturday that seminars and symposia, colourful processions and rallies, pantomime shows on TV etc will form part of the programme.



Monday

5:00	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran Programme summary
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	Sports programme
	Italian Soccer
	AC Milan vs Torino
6:30	Programme on general knowledge: Desh O Biggan
7:00	Open University
7:25	Nazrul Sangeet
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Population programme: Sukher Thakana
	Chare Bairey
9:00	News in English
10:00	Comedy series: Murphy Brown
10:30	
10:55	Disco Rally
11:30	Khabar/The-News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11:45	Closing

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