

Dhaka Day by Day

A Nectar Winter Brings

by Parveen Anam

In spite of all the bickerings on the political fronts, winter is generally a gorgeous time of the year for us in this part of the world. Very few places can match our glorious weather and when we watch the weather bulletins on the mini-screen, from around the globe with temperatures in remote places plunging to all-time low of -56 degrees Celsius, we are quick to say a silent prayer and enjoy the sunshine even more.

But for some, this particular weather also brings joys in other varied forms. The rural folks shake their heads in pity at the 'poor' city freaks, cut off the pleasures of the palate, which they claim only they can enjoy because they live in the countryside. But, the city dweller is quick to react and sits up in indignation as he points his finger at that most delicious of all winter delicacies, the molasses brought down from the top of the date tree, right in the heart of the city.

You can almost hear him smirk as he sees the wonderful sight of the 'lad' shin up the tree, to bring down the pot left overnight there. There are those in the city of course, who are puzzled by the idea of a pot left on top of a tree; but the wise nod their heads and sigh, 'Ahh', as they smack their lips in anticipation of that most wonderful of all drinks. It is a thin brown liquid, collected in the dark of the night, sweeter than honey and just as delicious. The 'collector' goes up the tree, which in itself is quite a feat, because that is a tall tree (!) and neatly ties the

earthen pot to the side of the tree, with a rope after cutting a sort of a wedge on the side, for the juice to trickle down into the pot. The pot stays overnight on the tree, and just before the sun shines in all its wintry glory onto the tops of the trees, he goes back up the tree, in the half light of dawn and gently brings the pot down.

He is a common sight actually, the 'molasses man', early in the morning. With two pots slung over a bamboo pole balanced on his frail shoulders, his very first customers are the morning walkers. These people, without a second thought, will stop in the middle of their walk, to take a drink of this delectable liquid, in a glass provided by the man. He will take about taka 5 for a glass and if the morning walker is caught without money, the man will happily come back the next day to collect it from the gentleman or lady.

Trust is a very large part of his business. And he is never cheated out of his money. The juice must be collected at night and brought down from the tree before the sun comes up. 'Otherwise it starts to ferment. Yet there are a few souls around who will buy the juice for the express purpose, of fermenting it, to turn it into a very crude country wine! But the majority of the city folks look forward to the winter months so they can have a drink of the date tree juice, and wait patiently for the next winter, to indulge in this most harmless, yet delicious of indulgences!



NOW YOU CAN COLLECT THE JUICE MORE SCIENTIFICALLY.

Canadian HC, Harun exchange views

High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh John J. Scott called on Minister of State for Relief Harun-Al-Rashid at the latter's office at Secretariat yesterday, reports BSS.

The State Minister apprised the High Commissioner of the programmes of preparedness and mitigation measures taken up by the government for facing natural calamities like cyclone, tornado, tidal surge and floods in the country.

They also exchanged views on projects taken up with the assistance of CIDA under the Ministry of Relief.

Scott assured that all possible help of his country would be extended for disaster preparedness programme of the Ministry of Relief.

No plan to create new division: JS told

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the government had no plan to create any new administrative division in the country, reports BSS.

Replying to a call attention notice by Maulana Obaidul Huq (JOU) on creating a new administrative division with the Greater Sylhet District, the minister said if decision was taken to create new divisions, Sylhet would be given priority.

He said it was necessary to make a feasibility report before the creation of a new administrative division. Feasibility study would include among others infrastructural facilities, boundary and population, of

the proposed division, he added.

Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder gave a brief resume about the area, population and number of districts in the existing administrative divisions of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal. He said besides the demand for creating division in the Greater Sylhet District, similar demands were also raised by the people of other greater districts.

Earlier, in his call attention notice, Maulana Obaidul Huq demanded transforming the Greater Sylhet District into an administrative division. He placed before the House various arguments in favour of his demand.



A scene of a play *Brittya* by the Dhaka Padatik staged at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday on the fifth day of the week-long Street Drama Festival based on the theme of Liberation War organised by the cultural group Samaya. — Star photo

Outgoing envoy of Romania lauds 'Dal-Bhat' concept

The outgoing Romanian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dumitru Mociu, yesterday appreciated the concept of 'Dal-Bhat' and the programmes on poverty alleviation of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, saying these programmes had generated great response in this region, reports BSS.

Dumitru, who has completed his three-year term here, said Bangladesh Prime Minister had been playing a very active role in the alleviation of poverty in the region.

The Romanian Ambassador made these remarks when he made a farewell call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday morning.

The Prime Minister said her government had laid importance on the education to remove the country's problems including poverty and over-population.

She said steps had also been taken to engage the unemployed and rural masses in the self-employment generating projects.

The Prime Minister told the envoy that the entrepreneurs of Romania could invest in Bangladesh.

'Quality of people's representatives deteriorated'

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said the quality of the peoples' representatives in the developing nations had deteriorated. He identified the reasons for the deterioration saying, the population in different constituencies had doubled but the number of representatives remained as it was fixed long ago.

He observed, there were "criminalisation" of politics by "muscle and money" in the countries like Bangladesh or India which had affected free and fair election process.

He was addressing a session of the conference on 'democracy and development' organised by the USA-based Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), and Khan Foundation. Some 80 MPs from 16 countries participated in the conference.

The conference which concluded yesterday with Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in the chair was also addressed by Jamaat leader Mottur Rahman Nizami, Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed, Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed, additional secretary of the Bangladesh parliament secretariat Abdul Haq Miah and others in different sessions.

Jamaat leader Mottur Rahman Nizami called for political unity in order to maintain the continuity of the constitutional process.

"The political parties must practise democracy within themselves in order to promote democratic system at the national level," he suggested.

Biswas seeks greater cooperation of Japan

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday sought greater cooperation of Japan in different sectors of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

"Japan has made a lot of progress in various socio-economic fields, including medical science. We need greater cooperation in different sectors with Japan," he said.

Biswas was exchanging views with a nine-member delegation of the Chittagong University of Science and Technology and Professors of Tokyo University Graduate School of International Health who called on the President at Bangabhaban.

He appreciated the initiatives of the university for signing a memorandum of understanding with Chairman and Professor of the Department of Health Policy and Planning of the University of Tokyo, Takusei Umenai, for

cooperation and collaboration in community medicine and primary health care.

The President hoped the MOU, if properly implemented, would be mutually beneficial to both the universities in respect of research and exchange of information and ideas.

The delegation was led by National Professor Dr Nurul Islam, President of the Syndicate of the Chittagong University of Science and Technology.

Syndicate members Prof Mohammad Ali, Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury, Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui, MA Salam and Prof Dr Masaru Nishigaki, Dr K Osaka and Dr S Barua were on the delegation.

Seminar on narcotics control ends Dec 9

By Staff Correspondent

Two French experts are conducting a seminar on "fight against drugs" attended by 22 senior officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Narcotics Control, Police, Bangladesh Rifles and Dhaka Customs Excise and VAT Collectorate.

The seminar, currently going on in the capital sponsored by French government, concludes December 9.

France had extended its cooperation to Bangladesh in the field of public security and the fight against drugs recently.

In April 1991 for the first time in Asia, a delegation of International Department for Technical Police Cooperation (IDTPC) has been created at the French Embassy in Dhaka.

A high-ranking French police officer was heading this permanent delegation. His main task is to develop training facilities related to the general activities of the French police.

Training sessions are carried out in Bangladesh by technical agents or can be done in France.

The permanent delegate of IDTPC, working in collaboration with Bangladeshi authorities can also call on experts who will have the mission to analyze and evaluate the specific needs of the country in various fields like training, equipment and modernisation of the police.

The French Embassy here yesterday said only democratic countries have IDTPC residents because France wishes to reinforce the democratically elected governments.

Navy, Air chiefs off to Malaysia

Navy Chief Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam and Air Chief Air Vice-Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury yesterday left Dhaka for a visit to Malaysia, reports UNB.

During their stay in Malaysia, both the chiefs will witness the Langkawi International Maritime, and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA-93), an international exhibition where ships and aircraft from many nations will show up.

Rear Admiral Islam, during his five-day tour, will also call on high civil and military officials of Malaysia and services chiefs of the participating countries.

The Air Chief is scheduled to call on the Malaysian Defence Minister and the Royal Malaysian Chief of Air Staff. He will also meet Chiefs of Staff of the Air Forces of different countries of the region during his four-day visit.



The JCD held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday in remembrance of mass upsurge against autocratic regime in 1990. — Star photo

'No programme of gherao Dec 21'

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Bangladesh Government College Professors and Lecturers Associations Sunday said that they have no programme to launch a work abstention and gherao on December 21.

In a statement made available to the press, the leaders contradicted news items published in a section of press and said that they had still been negotiating with the government about their demands.

Request to write word 'Shradhanjali' correctly

The government has requested all concerned to write the word 'Shradhanjali' (homage) with correct spelling in wreaths, posters, banners and festoons on different important days and programmes, reports BSS.

Workshop on LCS begins

Speakers at a workshop on "Landless Contracting Societies (LCS)" yesterday underlined the need for ensuring equal share of wages for the women day-labourers with their male co-workers for attaining the desired target of development of women community particularly the destitutes, reports BSS.

The three-day workshop which began yesterday at the Comilla BARD has been organised by the Directorate of Planning Schemes IV, Early Implementation Projects (EIP) of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

It has been observed in the workshop that poor women are very much interested in the income opportunities offered by the Landless Contracting Societies, the organisations which arrange mainly earth moving and brick breaking work for the destitutes. Large number of societies are working in the Dutch-Swedish aid under EIP of BWDB.

Development of 2 schools, one madrassah in each thana planned

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday said the present government had undertaken a programme for development of two schools and one madrassah in each thana of the country, reports BSS.

The minister said this while addressing as the chief guest at a gathering at Rayerbazar High School premises in the capital. Mayor of Dhaka Mirza Abbas, and BNP leaders including Ashraf Kabir, Salauddin Sarker, Abul Khir Babu and Osman Gani Shahjahan spoke on the occasion.

Sircar said the government had introduced a people-oriented education system for achieving cherished goal of national development. "The mass education, compulsory primary education programmes have been designed to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2000, he said.

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

The weather is likely to remain dry with clear sky over the country. Met Office forecasts night temperature may fall by one to two degrees Celsius.

Country's highest temperature of 30-degrees Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and lowest of 13.8 degrees Celsius was recorded in Dinajpur yesterday.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 5:11 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6:29 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and 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	9am	6pm
Dhaka	28.5	15.2	77	77
Chittagong	28.0	16.3	90	73
Rajshahi	28.3	16.0	78	74
Khulna	28.4	16.0	88	81
Barisal	27.4	14.0	72	86
Cox's Bazar	29.0	17.0	75	79
Sylhet	28.6	16.2	65	62
Dinajpur	29.5	13.8	80	78

GF calls for resolving issues among SAARC countries

The Garb Forum led by former Foreign Minister Dr Kamal Hossain Saturday called for creating an atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation among the SAARC countries to resolve vexing problems, reports UNB.

A resolution adopted at the extended meeting of the organising committee of the party said the changing environment of the world is encouraging the growth of democracy, development and regional cooperation around the world.

"This has given fresh impetus to promote amity and cooperation... in which meaningful negotiations could contribute towards the solutions of vexing problems," it said.

The party cited Farakka and water-sharing problem, repatriation of stranded Pakistanis and the realisation of the legitimate dues of Bangladesh from Pakistan.

Oli leaves for Malaysia

Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed left yesterday for Kuala Lumpur on a seven-day official visit to Malaysia, reports UNB.

The minister will attend a Maritime Exhibition, beginning Tuesday at Langkawi.

He will also have discussion with a number of ministers of Malaysia, including the Transport Minister.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



DADA, ABU, ANMI, AMER
PHUPUS, MAMAS
AND
ALL COUSINS

IN MEMORIAM



WE MISS MD. SHAHPANA WHO DIED A YEAR AGO ON THIS DAY.

PROPRIETOR AND EMPLOYEES OF LABAMBA, 100, SAT MASJID ROAD, DHANMONDI, DHAKA.

NOTICE FOR EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF APEX FOODS LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of APEX FOODS LIMITED will be held on Tuesday 28 December 1993 at 11.30 A. M. at the Auditorium of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industries, 5th floor, 65-66 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka to transact the following as special resolution:

- To Confirm the proceedings of the last Extra-Ordinary General Meeting held on 17 December 1992.
- Resolved that the Authorised Capital of the Company be and hereby increase from Tk.1,20,00,000/- to Tk. 6,00,00,000/- and 1,20,000/- to 6,00,000/- appearing in the 1st and 2nd line of clause V of the Memorandum and clause 6 of the Articles be and hereby substituted by the figures Tk. 6,00,00,000/- and 6,00,000.
- To transact any other business which ought to be transacted at an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting with the permission of the Chair.

Registered Office: 6th floor, 65-66 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. Tel: 235363, 231118

By order of the Board
ZAFAR AHMED
Managing Director
06 December 1993

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF APEX FOODS LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of APEX FOODS LIMITED will be held at the Auditorium of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industries, 5th Floor, 65-66 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, on Tuesday 28 December 1993 at 12.00 noon to transact the following:

- To confirm the proceedings of the THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 17 December 1992.
- To receive and adopt the Accounts for the year ended 30 June 1993 and the Reports of the Auditors and Directors thereon.
- To elect Directors.
- To Appoint Auditors for the year 1993-94 and fix their remuneration.
- To declare Dividend.
- To transact any other business which ought to be transacted at an Ordinary Meeting with the permission of the Chair.

Registered Office: Dhaka Chamber Building, 6th Floor, 65-66 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. Tel: 235363, 231118

By order of the Board
ZAFAR AHMED
Managing Director
06 December 1993

NOTE:

- The share transfer books of the Company will remain closed from 13 December to 28 December 1993 (both days inclusive).
- A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint another member as his/her proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf.
- Form of proxy, duly stamped and signed, must be deposited at the Company's Registered Office not later than 72 hours before the time appointed for the meeting. In default, forms of proxy will not be treated as valid.