

Dhaka Day by Day

Whom Belwari Bewitches

by Raffat Binte Rashid

Belwari, Reshmi Choori, Nebae Nakt. That's all Seema has to hear and she knows that her favourite vendor, the choori wala (one who sells glass bangles) is here. Buying and collecting — not to mention wearing — them is a passion for her. All the different colours, shades and designs, no matter how much she collects, are never enough for her. Her father believes that she has more collection than the vendor himself has in his *tookri* (the big basket which he carries over his head). Yet every time she hears this age-old call of the choori wala, she cannot resist tip toeing down the stairs to meet him and buy some wares or see what new items he has that she still didn't acquire. Hers is a passion that has died hard. Seema's interest was even fanned out of proportion when she heard stories of her grand mother's childhood days in Calcutta. She loved talking to her grandma about her early days in Calcutta. Seema was delighted to imagine her grandma in her shoes, running down the stairs, buying glass bangles and matching them with dresses.



WHY DON'T YOU BUY MY BANGLES FOR FREE

famous for its bangles. These are the whole sale markets. Basically glass, sand, soda and dyes or colours are mixed and heated in a big frying pan till the ingredients turn liquid. This liquid is then passed through a machine which smoothens the surface and simultaneously coils around another machine which gives the final shape, explained Fakir.

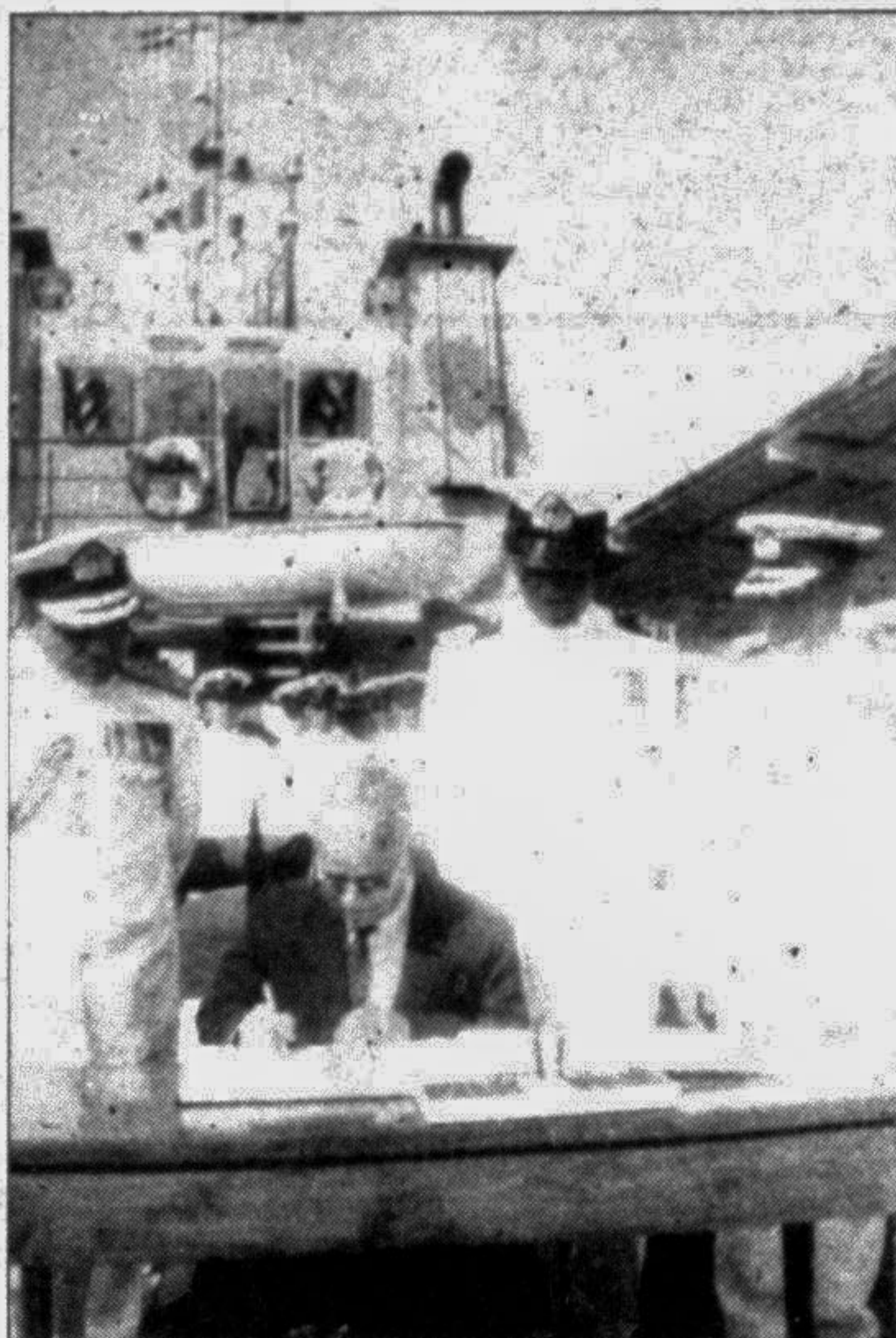
These bangles are found almost every colour in fascinating designs of nakshi and other folk motifs, the plain coloured ones are called *reshmi choori*. Fakir usually buys two crates of bangles. One gross is equivalent to 12 dozens and 12 gross make 1 crate in their dealings. One

gross costs Tk 120 to Tk 180 depending on designs, colour and quality. 'I buy 25 gross or 2 crates free Mahajans, this fills my basket and usually I sell all these within 8 to 10 days,' he explained. 'Every day Fakir earns about Tk 50 to Taka 70, but his sale simply shoots up during festivals. In *meas* (fair) *Batshakti*, *Ekushay*, *Boi Mela*, I sell about Tk 300 to 400 per day in spite of my other competitors being there.'

But Fakir is not exactly very content and happy with life. He has three daughters and dowry have literally made him a *fakir* (beggard). He had established a shop some years back but unfortunately within days it was closed down. His shop had bangles worth Tk 1600 to Tk 1700 but an accident smashed his wares. He could never recover from the loss and start all over again. 'Right now my only investment is my life and my *tookri*, let's see how far I can go.'

Besides being a choori wala Fakir Ahmed arranges the Urs of Khwaja Baba every year in his home town. Many rich people donate money but ever in his life was he dishonest.

He is old and tired now but to survive, has to carry the *tookri* over his head and say *choori, choori, kacher choori*. Nothing really changed, nor will ever, for him.



President Abdur Rahman Biswas commissioning the Bangladesh Navy's naval Tug 'Sebak' at Sadarghat Terminal, Dhaka yesterday. — PID Photo

Setting up of modern marine research instt under consideration

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said that the government would do every thing possible to build a modern, powerful and self-contained naval force in the greater interest of the country, reports UNB.

A plan for setting up of a modern marine research institute is under active consideration of the government. President Biswas told the commissioning ceremony of the newly built Tug 'Sebak' of the Bangladesh Navy at Sadarghat (BWT) terminal yesterday.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf, Chief of the Army Staff Lt Gen M Nooruddin Khan, chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohaimanul Islam, Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, diplomats and high civil and military officials.

Recalling the importance of naval force in the arena of defence, President Biswas said in order to keep pace with time and for protecting of our vast sea-resources, we have to go for modernisation and strengthening of our naval forces.

'We have about forty thousand square miles maritime belt full of sea-resources and added that the onerous task of defending and maintaining our sovereignty over these vast national maritime area and keeping the respective economic zone free from outside threats with our naval forces.'

He said navy has important role to play in the socio-economic development of the country, he said adding that the

Christian Assoc team meets Biswas

A 19-member delegation of the Bangladesh Christian Association called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday on the eve of Christmas Day. They conveyed warm greetings and presented a Christmas cake to the President, reports BSS.

While exchanging views with the members of the delegation, President Biswas said the teachings of Jesus Christ should be adhered in the day-to-day life, so that peace could prevail all over the society.

He said complete communal harmony had been existing in the country and the rights of different religions had been ensured by the present government. He assured them all co-operation in meeting different problems faced by them.

Later, the President cut the Christmas cake with the members of the delegation. Led by president of the association, Louis D Costa, the meeting was attended, among others, by Advocate Michael B Malo, Albert P Costa, Hubert Gomes, Simon A Pereira and David A Pandey.

Rupnagar Welfare Society

Meanwhile a 30-member delegation of the Rupnagar Tin Shed Social Welfare Society of Dhaka called on President at Bangabhaban. The delegation was led by Syed Mohammad Mohsin, MP and advisor of the society.

The President said the government had been trying to eradicate illiteracy from the society and introduced compulsory free primary education, food for education and free education for girl students upto class VIII outside the municipal area. People should take full advantage of this mass literacy programme, he said and added that we should change our attitude and ensure that nobody remains illiterate around us.

President Biswas said the present growth rate of population had been hampering steady progress in various socio-economic sectors. Therefore, people, particularly in the rural areas should be motivated to keep their family small, so that they could improve their standard of living, he added.

Among others, Shahe Alam Sikder and Mohammad Mokaddes Ali Mondal, president and general secretary of the society, Abu Hena Mohammad Jafar, Mohammad Saidur Rahman, Gazi Sekandar Ali, Abdul Halim Howlader, Abu Kahar Kalam, Golam Nabi and Mohammad Taibur Rahman were present on the occasion.

65 arrested in city

Police rounded up 65 people on various charges from different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Of them, five were wanted criminals, four for stealing, one caught under special power acts, 13 on charge of different cases, 15 under criminal acts and 27 others were arrested under DMP acts.

DCs asked to gear up dev activities

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday urged the deputy commissioners to gear up development activities by creating proper environment and maintaining law and order in the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing the deputy commissioners on the concluding day of their two-day conference at the secretariat cabinet room in Dhaka.

The law and order situation, ensuring people's security, gearing up the anti-smuggling activities, narcotics control and other concerned issues were discussed in the meeting.

Cabinet Secretary M Ayubur Rahman, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister K M Rabhani, Home Secretary, Azimuddin Ahmed, Law Secretary Mirza Asaduzzaman al-Faruque, Inspector General of Police ASM Shahjahan, Director General of BDR Maj Gen M Anwar Hossain, DG of Ansar-VDP Maj Gen Syed Badruzzaman and high officials of concerned ministries and departments attended the meeting.

Concern over standard of movies

Some leading people in the field of arts and culture yesterday expressed concern at the present state of the country's films and called for efforts to raise the standard of this creative art medium, reports UNB.

Good films can contribute a lot to free the society from such evils like communalism, violence and terrorism, speakers at the inaugural function of a week-long Second International Film Festival observed.

Noted journalist Obaidul Huq was the chief guest while Dr Mohammad Maniruzzaman presided over the function held at the auditorium of the Central Public Library.

Organised by the Rainbow Film Society, the function was addressed, among others, by Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Sayed Ahmed, Prof Abdus Salim, Director of the German Cultural Centre H Leschner, First Secretary of the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh Khuya Bhattacharya and general secretary of the society Muztaba Ahmed Zamal.

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Final project report for oceanography instt

A meeting of the steering committee for establishing an institute of oceanography was held in the conference room of the Ministry of Science and Technology yesterday, reports BSS.

The meeting also studied the feasibility to establish an institute of oceanography and evaluated the final project report.

Secretary of the Ministry M A Jalil chaired the meeting which was attended, among others by

founder chairman, National Oceanography and maritime Institute (NOAMI) Rear Admiral (Retd) M H Khan and noted oceanographer Professor Nuruddin Mahmud.

After reviewing the final report on the implementation of the project, the meeting unanimously recommended for establishment of an institute of oceanography immediately in the country.

BCL threatens strike in all educational instts

Pro-Awami League Chhatra League yesterday demanded release of its arrested leaders within 24 hours failing which it will enforce shutdown on all educational institutions in the country, reports UNB.

Mostaq Uddin Ahmed and Mohammad Elias were arrested at about 10:30 AM on the day from Sarak Bahaban area.

The ultimatum came from a rally the Chhatra League leaders held the morning in front of DUCSU office after a protest procession on the university campus.

It was addressed by KHM Lizu, President of the Dhaka University unit, Nirmal Guha, Vice President of central committee, and central joint Secretary Iqbal Hossain Apu.

Criticising the ruling BNP and its student wing (JCD), KHM Lizu said the present government was patronising terrorism in most educational institutions, including Dhaka University, while BCL workers being harassed and repressed.

Backed by the government and police, he alleged, the killers of Moniruzzaman Badal are staying in Zahurul Haque Hall and SM Hall safe and sound, while their workers have been driven out of their respective halls. He demanded immediate arrest of the killers of Badal.

বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন
BTV
Friday

Morning session
8.00 Opening announcement
Al-Guram
Programme summary
8.15 Afor Dishet
Natum Kuri
8.40 Moneer Mukurey:
Ayomoy (7th episode)
12.00 Film show: Border Town
12.30 Closing

Afternoon session
1.45 Opening announcement
Al-Guram
Programme summary
2.00 Live telecast of VI SAF Games athletics competition from Mirpur Stadium-2
3.30 Live telecast of VI SAF Games football competition:
Nepal vs
Maldives
5.30 Live telecast of VI SAF Games football competition
India vs
Pakistan
7.20 Programme on modern songs: Malancha
8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 Comedy series:
Perfect Strangers
9.00 Magazine: Gharac Birac
10.00 News in English
10.30 VI SAF Games Highlights-5
11.30 Khabar/The News
11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary
11.45 Closing

Prize giving ceremony of SSMC held

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said, "democracy pre-supposes political and ideological differences, among different parties," reports BSS.

The Energy Minister was addressing as chief guest at the prize giving ceremony of the three-day cultural functions of Sir Salmullah Medical College (SSMC).

The minister later distributed prizes among the students for their outstanding performances in different traits in art and culture.

Janapriya Sangha holds discussion

The Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas, MP, yesterday called upon the youth community to dedicate themselves to the task of serving the people and building the country, reports BSS.

The Mayor was speaking at a discussion organised by the Janapriya Sangha a youth organisation, at Basaboo in the capital.

Earlier, the Mayor distributed relief goods among the victims of a fire incident at Sadarghat area. The Minister of State for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain accompanied the Mayor. The relief materials include utensils and other essentials.

Weather Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent
Dry weather with clean sky is likely to prevail all over the country today, Met office forecasts.

Night temperature may fall by one to two degrees Celsius over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna divisions and the regions of Sylhet and it is likely to remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

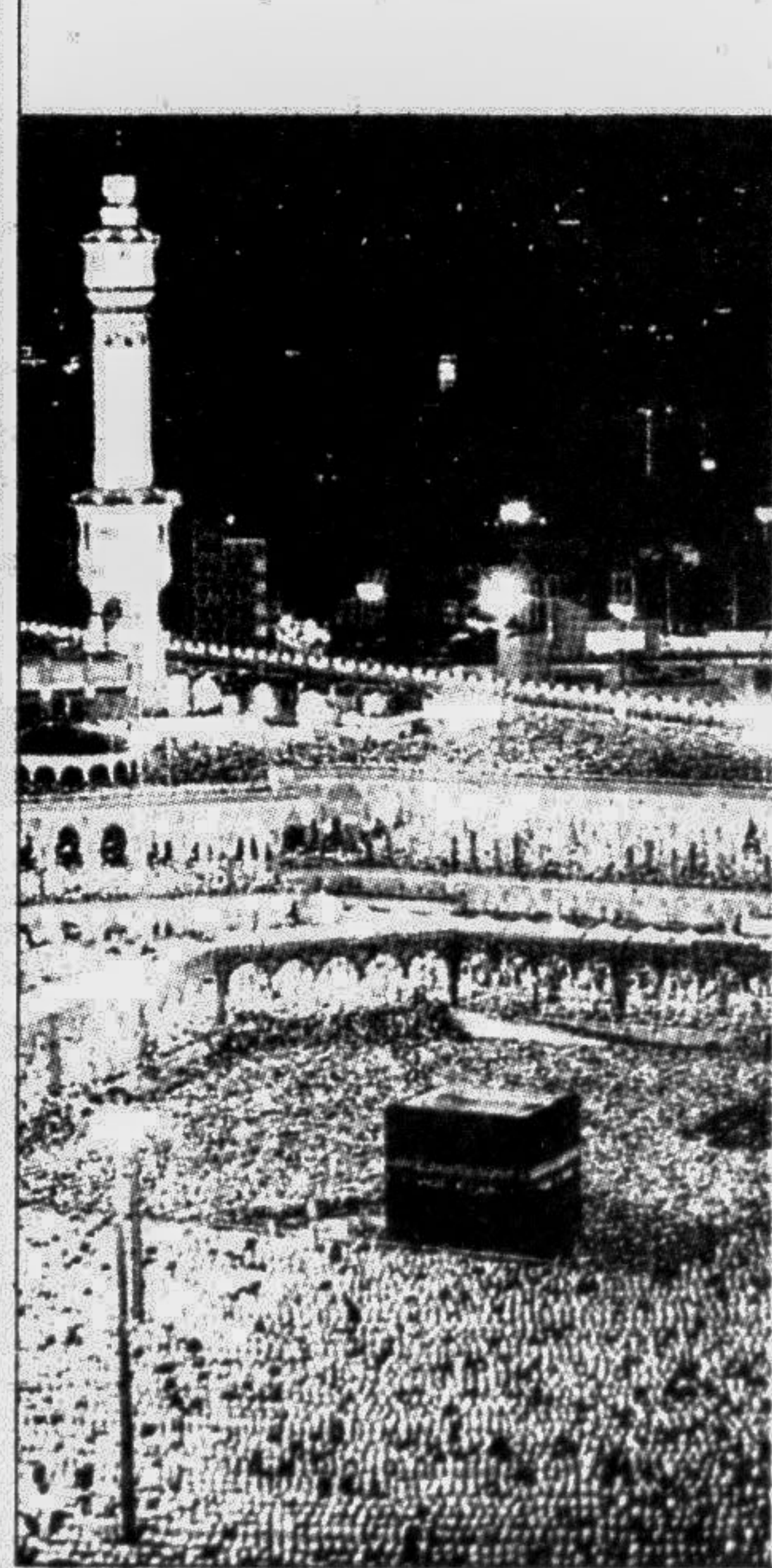
The highest temperature of the country of 29 degrees Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and Cox's Bazar while lowest 9.6 degrees Celsius was reported from Srimangal yesterday.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 5:18 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6:39 am.

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

Cities/towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius	Percentage of humidity		
	Max	Min	9 am	6pm
Dhaka	26.3	11.5	73	71
Chittagong	28.4	14.3	68	63
Rajshahi	25.6	12.6	74	79
Khulna	26.1	12.4	82	70
Barisal	27.0	12.0	78	64

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