

Dhaka Day by Day

High Rise on the Dhaka Scene

by Parveen Anam

The 'pundits' claim, Dhaka is amongst the fastest growing city in the world. The population is multiplying in geometric proportions and if the same 'pundits' are not too smart, which I am afraid most of them are not, the population and the city will soon collapse under their own weights. Do we see the 'pundits' snirk now?

However, Dhaka is being inundated by a migrant population flocking in their millions to the beleaguered city. In search of jobs, opportunity of which there is not much, to beg at the city lights, steal, collect tolls, smash cars, you name it. Of course, the city fathers in solemn tones inform us that the law and order situation is better now than what it was even a short while ago. What they do not like to also tell us is that the records in the police books look good because the police man on duty at his little station will nonchalantly look the other way when you go to lodge a police case or simply flatly refuse to talk to you. His records look good at the end of the month, and his boss can make tall statements.

But again, coming to records and bosses, every once in a while they will also look the other way, when it comes to solving the accommodation problems of the teeming millions in the city. There are buildings springing up like mushrooms in this our beloved city, ostensibly to house the multitudes but more often than not to fetch fat rents for the chaps who matter. How it is possible for these buildings to come up overnight, taking an already groaning basic facility network like the water, sewerage, electricity to its breaking point, is a wonder. All these buildings of course cannot be built without

permission from the 'relevant authorities' who again cannot give permission without a proper assessment.

Once in a while we will come across these same authorities on the warpath, demolishing five-storey buildings in the city centre, with a great big bang watching and the police keeping them at bay. The question which springs to the minds of ordinary souls, like us is, 'For heavens sake, how did the chap build it in the first place.' But surely, he must have had permission from somebody, somewhere along the line? Oh yes, this is where the exchange business took place, the wise inform you, and the poor chap building there, was taken for a ride all the way.

The grotesque structures rising all over the city, without let or hindrance, is a positive environmental hazard of course, because the facilities to go with all these structures are being stretched to meet the demands. They are already stretched to their limits and no way can go any further. The only problem here seems to be the city authorities who are so blinded with keeping the beggars away so they do not hinder the 'games', that they do not seem to have the time to see anything else. And if they cannot see those ugly, big structures mushrooming all over the city, they are in big trouble. It is a dispiriting exercise, this entire effort of trying to make 'them who matter' see anything they are not interested in seeing. Admittedly, all this seems perhaps funny in print, but in real life, it somehow seems to have lost its humour as the city groans under the continual construction of high rise buildings.



Not all high-rise buildings are at fault

X-mas celebrated in Ctg, Rajshahi

Christmas was celebrated in Chittagong and Rajshahi as elsewhere of the country with due solemnity, reports BSS.

In Chittagong, the main religious congregations were held at churches of Patharghata, Saint Mary's and Catholic Church at Jamal Khan.

Other programmes on the occasion included decoration of Christmas trees in all houses of the Christian community, distribution of sweets, cutting of Christmas cakes.

Special prayers were also offered in the churches seeking peace and prosperity of the nation as well as global peace. Local dailies here published some articles, while Radio Bangladesh Chittagong put-up special programmes highlighting the significance of the day.

In Rajshahi, Christian community celebrated Christmas Day with religious fervour and festivity.

They offered prayers at different churches for peace and progress of the country.

The devotees also decorated Christmas trees on the occasion and exchanged greetings to mark the day.

Asaduzzaman's death condoled

Communications Minister Oli Ahmad yesterday condoled the death of Awami League, MP, Advocate Mohammad Asaduzzaman, reports BSS.

In a statement Ahmad said his untimely death is a great loss to democracy. In his death the country has lost one of the very seasoned and renowned parliamentarians, he added.

The minister prayed for the peace of the departed soul and conveyed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

In a separate statement, Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam said, the name of late Advocate Md Asaduzzaman would go down in the history of the parliamentary practice of our country.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday expressed his deep shock at the death of Mohammad Asaduzzaman, MP.

In a condolence message, the Energy Minister termed Asaduzzaman as the valiant son of democracy.

The Energy Minister conveyed his sympathy to the members of the deceased family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz expressed his profound shock and grief at the death of Advocate Asaduzzaman MP of Awami League.

In a message of condolence Mirza Hafiz said, in the death of Advocate Asaduzzaman the country had lost one of its veteran politicians and experienced parliamentarians. The Law Minister conveyed his deep sympathy to the members of bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

In a separate message, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M A Mannan also expressed deep shock and grief at the death of Advocate Asaduzzaman and said in his demise the country has lost one of the very seasoned and renowned parliamentarians.

Bridge foundation stone laid

Communications Minister Oli Ahmad yesterday laid the foundation stone of a bridge over the Char Dumuria Khal at Munshirhat in Mollarkandi union of the district of Munshiganj, reports UNB.

The bridge will link two important growth centres of the district—Shilol and Banglabazar and about 1.5 lakh people of six unions would be benefited.

Construction work of the 360 feet long and 12 feet wide steel bridge will begin in the next month and it is expected to be completed within a year.

The minister also addressed a public meeting on the occasion. It was also addressed by Deputy Minister of the LGRD and Cooperatives, Abdul Hye and local leaders.



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina speaking at the first central conference of the Bangabandhu Shishu-Kishore Mela at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium yesterday.

Radio centre in Rajshahi to be modernised

RAJSHAHI, Dec 25: The government has undertaken a development programme for renovation and modernisation of Rajshahi centre of Radio Bangladesh at a cost of Tk one crore eighty lakh, reports BSS.

An official source said that under the balancing, modernisation, replacement and extension (BMRE) programme, old machines and equipment were being replaced for smooth and standard broadcast of radio programmes. The machines were imported from America and Japan.

A five hundred watt FM transmitter will be set up at the Rajshahi centre soon. Another two kilo watt FM transmitter

with mobile van will arrive here shortly for spot coverage, the source added.

Besides, the local radio authority already set up two mix console machines, one switching machine for controlling the booths for programmes, two monitoring amplifiers and four professional large size tape recorders and reproducers with the objective for qualitative and smooth broadcast of radio programmes in the zone.

The government for the first time has taken up such measures for replacement of old machines and equipment after 30 years for all round development of Rajshahi centre of Radio Bangladesh.

Huda at function of a college

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday said that none would remain illiterate and ignorant following successful implementation of various programmes undertaken by the present government for the spread of education throughout the country, reports BSS.

He said the government had taken epoch-making step by giving priority to education sector through making primary education compulsory, free education for girls upto class eight and mass education programme including food for education and was marching ahead with successful execution of elimination of illiteracy programme.

Nazmul Huda was speaking at the inaugural function of the newly built Padma College building at Dohar.

The newly build building was inaugurated by the social worker and father of the information Minister Nurul Huda as the chief guest.

Among others, the inaugural function was also addressed by Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sirca, Industrialist Sohail Rahman, Secretary General of Bangladesh Human Rights Implementation Commission Sigma Huda, President of the college governing body Dr A R Khan and Founder-Principal Ibrahim Bhuiyan.

Referring to the contribution of great sons of Dohar thana in giving leadership to the nation, the Information Minister expressed the hope that the students of this college would come out as competent citizens to give leadership to the nation in future. Students have to prepare themselves with the light of learning, he said adding that congenial atmosphere had to be maintained for this purpose, session jam had been created and as a result generation gap had already been created, he said.

The Information Minister recalled the glorious role played by the student community in the anti-autocracy movement and said they had made significant contribution in uniting the people and giving sense of direction at the hours of peril.

Now that democracy has been established in the country and constitutional process

Confce of Health Deptt Field employees

KHULNA, Dec 25: The Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali today called upon the employees of Health Department to leave no stone unturned for ensuring health for all by the turn of the century, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest the annual divisional conference of Bangladesh Health Department Field Employees Association held at local Zia Hall.

Presided over by Md Basharat Alam Khan, President of Khulna district unit of the association, the conferenece was addressed, among others, by Syeda Nargis Ali, MP, former mayor of Khulna City Corporation Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and Secretary General of the association Md Harun-or-Rashid.

The Speaker said, the present government is fully aware of the problems of the field employees of Health Department.

He assured of all possible help to fulfil their genuine demands.

The Speaker lauded the activities of the association for pursuing democratic ways to get their demands fulfilled instead of resorting to undemocratic way.

Two die of Kala-azar

Two people died of Kala-azar in the district during the last fortnight, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Shaheen Akther (19) of Chohoditola village in Nawabganj pourashava and Godhor Ali (45) of Surja Narayanpur in Sadar thana.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex M. V. PANAMA SENATOR V-EM-344 from Lamaca, ex M.V. PETER M V-03/93 & ex. M.V. CELINE M V-28/93 from Mersin, ex M.V. ARABIAN SENATOR V-EM-343 from Lamaca/Mersin have been relayed to M.V. FONG YUN V-9337 Import Rotation No. 1039/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 27-12-93 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: D.S.R. SENATOR LINES, GERMANY. PHONES: 500686, 503317, 500687/88



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), an international development organisation, operating in northern Bangladesh, invites applications for the post of:

SUBJECT MATTER SPECIALIST (HORTICULTURE)

Applicants must hold an M.Sc. Agriculture in Agronomy or Horticulture with 3 years experience or a B.Sc. Agriculture (Hons.) with 5 years experience.

The successful candidate will be responsible for overall planning, programming and monitoring of field crops and horticultural crops, conduct training for staff and farmers. He/She must be prepared to travel extensively in rural areas.

Applications in own handwriting with recent passport size photographs are to reach the Agriculture Coordinator, RDRS, GPO Box 618, Dhaka-1000, no later than 10th January, 1994.

Nat'l conference of FP Assistants' Assoc held

Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Barrister Abdus Salam Tahukder yesterday called upon the paribar kallayan assistants to strengthen their activities in implementing the family planning programmes at grassroots level to serve the greater national interest, reports BSS.

Addressing as the chief guest at the first national conference of Bangladesh Paribar Kallayan Assistants' Association the minister said there was no alternative to family planning to reach the benefits of economic development activities to the people.

Held at Azimpur Girls High School premises in Dhaka the conference was addressed by State Minister for Women Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare M Strajul Huq and joint conveners of the family planning programme Begum Hoane Ara, Convener of the family Begum Safia Khaloon presided.

The LGRD minister appreciated the role played by the family planning assistants in implementing the population control programmes and said the government would give due importance in considering their just demands.

Begum Sarwari Rahman urged the FP assistants along with their professional duties to make the rural women conscious so that they would take advantage of existing laws in resisting oppression on women.

A total of 23,500 FP assistants are working at village and union levels throughout the country to advise and assist the eligible couples in their respective areas for adopting family planning measures.

The service was introduced by late President Ziaur Rahman in 1976 under the directorate of family planning to implement family planning and mother and child health programmes at grassroots level.

22 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 25: At least 22 people were injured, seven seriously, in a fresh clash between villagers and firewood suppliers at Bhadrashan in Kamarkhand thana Friday night, reports UNB.

The clash erupted following an altercation over supply of firewood to a brickfield. Te supporters of a jute stalk trader clashed with the villagers who protested the use of trees in the brickfield, hospital sources said.

Earlier on Wednesday, 40 people were injured in a clash over the same issue when villagers resisted the jute stalk traders from supplying trees to the brickfield, witnesses said.

S Korean team lauds scope for investment in Bangladesh

The five-member South Korean investment delegation led by Kim Woo-Choong, Chairman of Daewoo Corporation, passed a busy day yesterday in the capital, reports UNB.

The high-level delegation met Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed and State Minister for Textile Major Abdul Mannan (retd).

The delegation is on a two-day mission in Bangladesh to explore business and investment possibilities in the country.

During the meetings with government leaders, the delegation appreciated the tremendous scope for investment in Bangladesh and underlined the need for a continuous dialogue in this regard, official sources said.

The talks may be seen as the beginning of a dialogue for a wider bilateral cooperation between the two countries, "one of the sources said.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman at a meeting with the delegation outlined various trade liberalisation and investment measures undertaken by the present government.

He urged the Korean delegation to avail the opportunities and come forward to invest in the country.

'Realistic steps taken to raise literacy rate'

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan yesterday said, the present government had taken various realistic steps to raise the literacy rate in the country, reports BSS.

The State Minister was speaking as chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of Zakia Khalrun Nessa Hall of Ichhamati College in Nawabganj, Dhaka.

The State Minister said, education policy of BNP government aimed at making the nation educated. In this connection he referred to compulsory primary education programme, food for education programme, establishment of open university in the country and free education for girls students up to class eight in the rural areas.

The State Minister urged all to cooperate with the government in implementing the education policy of government.

Later, the State Minister gave away Ichhamati medals '93 to brilliant students of the college for their excellent result in the last HSC examination.

There is ample scope in the telecommunication, energy and railway sectors where foreigners can make investment successfully," Saifur, was quoted to have told the delegation.

Kim, the leader of the delegation, reciprocating the sentiments expressed his interest in textile, garments, power generation and telecommunication sectors.

Foreign Ministers ASM Mostafizur Rahman at a meeting with the delegation at his residence hoped that the visit of Kim will open up a new era of cooperation between Korea and Bangladesh.

The Korean delegation also exchanged views with Communications Minister Oli Ahmed on issues of common interest, with special reference to bilateral cooperation in roads and railway communication sectors.

The members of the delegation, during a meeting with Major Abdul Mannan (retd), discussed matters of bilateral interest, with particular reference to the textile and garments industries.

The State Minister for Textile told Kim, Chairman of the Korean industrial giant — the Daewoo Corporation, that Bangladesh has congenial investment atmosphere specially in the fields of garments and textile.

He urged the delegation to avail the investment opportunities prevailing in Bangladesh.

Textile Secretary A H Mofazzal Karim and Vice Chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Anisul Haq Chowdhury were present during the meeting.



Table with columns for time (2.15, 2.20, 2.45, 4.45, 5.15, 7.00, 7.25, 8.00, 8.30, 9.05, 10.00, 10.30, 11.30, 11.40, 11.45) and program details including Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary, News in Bangla, Live telecast of VI SAF, Football competition, Live telecast of VI SAF, Football final competition, News in English, Open University, Rabindra Sangeet, News in Bangla, Programme on agriculture, Matti O Manush, Drama serial: The Sword of Tipu Sultan, News in English, VI SAF Games, Highlights-7, Khabar/The News, Tomorrow's programme summary, Closing.

Weather

Temperature may fall

Dry weather with fair sky is likely to prevail over the country in the next 12 hours commencing 6:00 pm today.

Met Office forecasts, slight fall in the night temperature is likely over the country.

The country's highest temperature of 29 degrees Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar while the lowest of 8.8 degrees Celsius was at Srimangal.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5:19 and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6:40 am.

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

Table with columns: Cities/Towns, Temperatures in Degrees Celsius (Max, Min), Percentage of Humidity (9 am, 6 pm). Data for Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong, Barisal, Sylhet.