

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Happy New Year

by Rashed Mahmud Titumir



It is zero hours on day zero and wherever you are, be it Dhaka, Delhi, London, New York or Moscow, you don't miss to say "Happy New Year."

Before the dawn of the new year, you must have had already received a greetings card prompting you to ask of yourself what indeed the new year will hold in store for you? Perhaps a golden treasure of joys, that you have been hoping for. The card brings back memories of happy times you have passed and fills the day with new delights that are for you alone. Identifying you as a special person, someone writes to you: It's time for you to celebrate another year, and so this special greeting card is sent to make it clear. You're wished a day that's happy and a year perfect too, cause that's exactly what should come to someone as nice as you.

New Year is not a festival of individuals, but of the whole family too. A family says to the other, "you're the kind of family that's thought of all year through. People who are nice to know and very special too, bring joy to everybody."

The New Year festival, which is among the oldest and most universally observed. Generally include very diverse rites and ceremonies.

Bangalees as a people did not particularly go for New Year fairs and festivities. The Halkhata opening by shopkeepers was the only interesting function that involved but only the customers of the shops. British colonial rule introduced Bengalees to the festivities of January 1. This is

term, and in time, inspired the nationalists among them to go for celebrating the advent of the Bengali New Year in an all-involving manner.

The earliest known record of a New Year's festival dates from about 2000 B.C in Mesopotamia.

New Year is celebrated in varying degree and time in conformity with the calendar and culture.

In early medieval times, most of Christian Europe regarded March 25 as the beginning of the year, through for Anglo-Saxon.

England New Year's Day was December 25. William the Conqueror decreed that the year start on January 1, but, later, England began its year with the rest of Christendom on March 25.

January 1 was revived with the adoption of it by Roman Catholic countries. Other countries slowly followed suit.

The celebration of the New Year on January 1 is the most popular, as most of the world follow this calendar.

New Year's Day, whether local or universal, serves to meet specific social and psychological needs and provide cohesiveness to social institutions. Similarly, individuals gain a sense of psychological cohesiveness through participating in feasts and festivals.

The wildfire advance of the wasteful in lifestyle led by the affluent in the society is tarnishing the sense of sincere goodwill that permeates day with expensive 'society outings in hotels offering things not in conformity with this nation's culture.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina is seen with the recipients of the 1993 Natyakarmi Padak. The recipients are Ataur Rahman (R of AL chief) and Prof Kabir Chowdhury. The padak was awarded yesterday at the Shilpaka Academy auditorium. — Star photo

## Tk 3.5 cr Dhaka-N'ganj linkroad by June

The earth work for the construction of bridges and box culverts on the 8 km-long Dhaka-Narayanganj linkroad will be completed by June this year at a cost of Tk 3.50 crore, reports UNB.

The pavement of the 22-foot wide road having a crest of 40 feet is expected to be completed in the next financial year. The government is bearing the cost of the project from its own resources.

Besides, the bricksoling on the first kilometre of the road at the Narayanganj end linking the town with the newly-built district council building will also be completed by June.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, while visiting the construction site Thursday, asked the engineers of the Roads and Highways to take every step needed to avoid cost overrun and time overrun.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, local MP Prof Rezaul Karim and Advocate Abul Kalam were present during the visit, said an official hand-out.

The linkroad connecting Narayanganj with Folder Road, when completed, will ease but the traffic congestion to and from Narayanganj and fulfil a long-awaited demand of the people in the area.

## President's message on Int'l Family Year '94

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has called for upgrading the standard of individual family by implementing various development programme through united efforts, reports UNB.

In a message on the eve of the "International Family Year 1994", President Biswas said the family has been identified in the holy Quran as a social unit. "The need for a firm and cordial relation among the family members has been mentioned more than once in the holy Quran."

The year 1994 has been declared by the United Nations as the "International Family Year" aimed at ensuring equity of all members of the family — male, female, child, elderly and the handicapped.

The President said the main objective of observing the year in the country was to make people more conscious about the condition on each family.

Identification of the family condition in the light of basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, health and education, and also to take remedial measures are also another major objective to observe the year, he added.

## Office-bearers of DUTA take oath

The newly elected office-bearers of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) took oath of office at a simple function.

During the ceremony, the new DUTA President Prof Shahadat Ali and General Secretary Dr A A M S Arefin Siddiqi expressed their firm determination to uphold the Dhaka University Order 1973.

They sought support of the teachers and called upon them to be united for greater interest of the country's highest seat of learning.

## Biswas, Khaleda greet Arafat

The President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated Yasser Arafat, President of the State of Palestine to mark the Palestinian National Day, reports BSS.

In a message to President Arafat, President Biswas said, "I am confident that the fraternal relations existing between our two brotherly peoples and states will be further developed and strengthened in the years to come."

He wished the Palestine leader personal well-being, long life and the Palestinian brethren continued peace, progress and prosperity.

In another message the Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia also felicitated Yasser Arafat, President, the State of Palestine on the occasion of the National Day of Palestine.

In the message of felicitation to President Arafat, Begum Zia said "the people and the government of Bangladesh join me in extending to you and through you to the brotherly people of the state of Palestine our heartiest greetings and warmest felicitations on the happy occasion of the National Day of Palestine."

Begum Zia said "I take this opportunity to reaffirm our continued support for and solidarity with our Palestinian brethren in their just struggle for achieving the cherished goal under your wise and dynamic leadership."

"Bangladesh hopes that the peace initiatives now underway," she said, will lead to the realisation of a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East.

Begum Zia wished President Arafat good health, happiness and long life and the fraternal people of Palestine continued peace, progress and prosperity.

## Strengthen movement for alternative politics: Menon

KHULNA, Dec 31: Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon MP has called upon the people to strengthen the movement for alternative politics to ensure emancipation of the masses, reports UNB.

Addressing a public meeting at Shaheed Haidis Park here today, Menon said BNP, Awami League, Jamaat and Jatiya Party are representatives of the bourgeoisie. They cannot fulfill the people's aspiration for emancipation, he added.

He criticized the present government for enacting the Anti-Terrorism Act and alleged that the ruling BNP was using this law to suppress the opposition parties.

Presided over by Hafizur Rahman, the meeting, called Lal Pataka meeting, was organised by the Workers' Party. It was also addressed by Bimal Biswas, Tipu Biswas and Azizur Rahman.

## Death of Asaduzzaman Condoled

Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Chief Whip Khondker Delwar Hossain has expressed his grief at the death of Mohammad Asaduzzaman, MP of Awami League who died of heart ailment on Saturday, reports BSS.

In a condolence message from New York, the Chief Whip said that late Asaduzzaman was a good parliamentarian and always struggled for the cause of the people. The Chief Whip recalled the significant role played by late Asaduzzaman in the War of Liberation of Bangladesh. At his death, the country had lost a veteran parliamentarian, he said.

Khondker Delwar conveyed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

## ATR Rahman in city

Chief of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration Dr. ATR Rahman has arrived in Dhaka on a two-week UNDP mission, reports UNB.

## AGM of BCBS held

CHITTAGONG, Dec 31: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Bangladesh Cooperative Book Society (BCBS) was held at its Jubilee Road head office here today with Ahmad Said, one of the society directors in the chair, reports BSS.

Lutful Haq, another director of the society presented a report of the BCBS where in some irregularities of the past years were pointed out and a number of suggestions were given for its future development.

Vice chairman, Engineer Monowar Ahmad, Director Nurullah, Advocate Kazi Nazrul Islam, social worker Dr Azizullah, journalists Nazir Ahmad and Moinuddin Kaderi Showkat addressed the meeting.

They called for reorganising the society to enable it to make effective contributions in the socio-economic field of the country.

Bangladesh Cooperative Book Society publishes and sells books besides carrying on some other commercial activities.

## 69 arrested on various charges

Police rounded up 69 people, including nine wanted criminals, from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges, a DMP press release said yesterday, reports UNB.

All the arrested people were produced before court.

## Weather

### Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with fair sky will continue to prevail over the country in the next 12 hours commencing 6 pm yesterday.

Met Office forecasts, night temperature is likely to fall by one to two degrees Celsius over the country.

Country's highest temperature of 29.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Teknaf while the lowest of 10.0 degrees Celsius at Srimangal.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 5:23 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 6:42 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Mix	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.1	12.2	77	63
Chittagong	28.5	15.6	73	54
Rajshahi	26.0	11.8	91	88
Khulna	27.0	13.1	79	74
Barisal	26.7	13.0	88	73
Cox's Bazar	28.3	17.0	74	69

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**National Book Centre's rally**  
A colourful rally, under the auspices of National Book Centre, was brought out Friday, rep: US UNB.

**Happy Birthday**  
**Fasih**  
Many happy return of the day  
Yeasmin  
1.1.94

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