

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Office in Slumber

by Parveen Anam

SINCE ALL OF US SUFFER FROM INSOMNIA, FROM NOW ON OUR OFFICE WILL RUN FROM 8.30 PM TO 2.30 AM!



Dhaka is gradually but steadily becoming a city with people who suffer intolerably from nerves. It is a constant battle getting to work, dodging the trucks, who in turn dodge the authorities and threaten them with dire consequences if their (the truckers) demands are not met, and the rather unpleasant sight of the 'powers that be' grovelling before the even more 'supreme powers that be' i.e. the immortal truckwallas. The merry-go-round is quite endless. And the Dhakaite is at the receiving end. As always.

But, for a few, Dhaka is a great place to be in. Optimism rules. And optimistic statements are the rule of the day. The prospects for the future seem limitless. One look at either the state controlled endless television output or the self-censored newspapers, leaves one gasping with indignation. There is really a limit to how much the laden taxpayer can be taken for a ride. And yet a ride it is all the way. But before we go further, we perhaps need to look at things in its tota perspective.

The Dhakaite really does not need to go far to see the truth of the matter. Life for some is undoubtedly good; and these are the few who matter. A trot down to an office of the authorities will bear out the inherent truth. A peaceful scene rules. No voices raised in anger or 'political view' as is the wont of the Bangladeshi when three of them get together, is being expressed. There is total and utter SILENCE. Ah, does it mean there is feverish work being accomplished? the optimistic amongst us will venture to enquire. And this is where the rude awakening comes in. For those of us who are still awake.

For all the others in those offices are FAST ASLEEP. An office at 11 am is a rare sight.

perhaps?



## Mir Nurul Islam in critical condition

The Executive Editor of the Bangla Bani Mir Nurul Islam is now undergoing treatment at the Holy Family Hospital. He has been advised treatment abroad. His condition is critical.

He has been suffering from kidney trouble and lung infection. He was admitted to the hospital on December 30.

Oli at IDE conference  
BNP govt won't bow to any threat

Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed yesterday urged the diploma engineers to utilise their skills properly and with dedication in making the country self-reliant, reports UNB.

The Communications Minister cautioned those involved in hartal, blockade and other "self-destructive" acts and said the BNP government would never bow down to threats. Problems should be solved through discussion, he added.

"You must strive through your professional performance to reach the benefit of scientific inventions to the doorsteps of the people," he said while inaugurating the three-day 18th National Council Conference of the Institute of Diploma Engineers (IDE) at its headquarter.

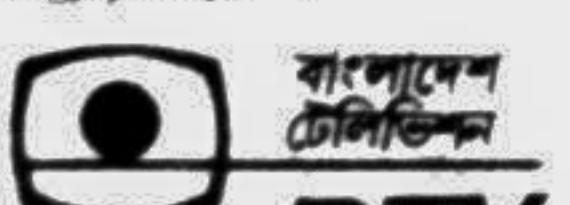
Speaking on the occasion, Abdus Samad Azad called upon the government to solve the problems of all professionals, including the doctors, to derive maximum services from them for ensuring well-being of the people.

He said technocrats should be involved in the mainstream of development activities without which no nation can make any progress.

Azad urged the government to activate the different committees formed to solve problems of the professionals.

In his presidential speech, IDE president Shafiquddin Sarkar said the conference would discuss a number of national issues through separate seminars.

He said these will include compulsory primary education, enactment of law for quality control on construction, low-cost housing, infrastructure for integrated communication system, drought and food problems, water logging, salinity and energy policy.



Saturday

4:30 Opening announcement  
Al-Quran  
Programme summary  
Cartoon film: Young Robinhood  
5:10 News in Bangla  
Soorgoal  
6:00 Tarunya  
6:25 Bangshree  
7:05 News in English  
8:00 Mati-O-Manush  
9:00 Biswa Natak  
10:00 News in English  
10:30 Drama serial: Dallas  
11:30 Khabar/The News  
11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary  
11:45 Closing

## Ajax Jute Mills Limited Notice

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the Workers of Ajax Jute Mills Ltd, Khulna under the leadership and instigation of the CBA leaders staged a gherao of the Officers on the Mill from 10 A.M. on 9.1.94 demanding implementation of higher wages and other benefits as per the New Wages Scale of 1993, which is applicable for the Nationalised Sector enterprises under BJMC, and other 5 Corporations only. Such higher Wages and other benefits are not applicable to the workers of this Mill, which is a Private Sector Mill and not a nationalised Mill or enterprise under the Public/Government Sector. Pressing this demand the workers along with the CBA leaders kept the officers and other personnel of the Mill under wrongful confinement and pressurised them to agree to their illegal demand. This pressure and gherao continued indefinitely and at long last at about 7.00 AM on the following morning on 10.1.94 they forced and extorted a written commitment from the Mill Officers wherein they were compelled to state that the workers' such demand would be implemented by 3.2.94 and then only the gherao officers were released from wrongful confinement.

This commitment was obtained under Gherao, duress and forceful circumstances. As such it is illegal and not implementable. The Board of Directors of this Mill, therefore, hereby repudiates the said commitment with immediate effect which was the result of illegal force, pressure, gherao and duress.

By order of the Board of Directors of

Ajax Jute Mills Limited

Syed Wares Ali

Secretary



Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda inaugurated a solo photography exhibition of Abu Taher Khokon, staff photographer of the Morning Sun at the art gallery of the Shilpkala Academy yesterday.

—Star photo

## Biswas for unity among intellectuals

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon the intellectuals to launch united thrust for establishing a society based on reasoning and intellect, reports BSS.

He said the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh could play a pioneering role in pursuit of the faculty of understanding and wisdom.

President Biswas, who is also the patron of the society, was speaking as chief guest at the fifth biennial general meeting of the society.

Held in the society's auditorium, the inaugural function was presided over by the society president Prof A K M Nurul Islam. General secretary of the society Hasna Begum presented the annual report while joint secretary of the society Prof Harun-ar-Rashid gave vote of thanks.

President Biswas said the path to take endeavour for austerity is well-spread and the responsibility is vested on the intellectuals to traverse that way for building a sound society and its conscience. "Our intellectuals have rich and glorious past," he said and expressed the hope that the intellectuals of the country would render invaluable services for upholding that past heritage.

The president said due to resources constraints it was not possible to allocate necessary financial provisions in the field of education and research. However, he said it was totally encouraging that the members of this society had been carrying out their research works within the limited financial structure of the organisation.

He assured that efforts would be kept uninterrupted for continuing such research endeavours.

Terming our great War of Liberation as the golden chapter of our national history and heritage, President Biswas hoped that the members of the society would take initiatives for compilation of objective and neutral history of liberation struggle.

He assured all possible help and assistances on behalf of the government for materialising such projects.

President Biswas said that the primary and principal objective of the society was to work for the expansion of constructive thinking and perception. In this connection he said the nation could not attain desired success in the past due to negative approach as a massive

erosion of values engulfed our total national life. It is imperative to halt this erosion," he said adding that the march of the nation towards progress and prosperity would be endangered unless we could resist such erosion of values.

CPC team meets Biswas

The visiting eight-member high level delegation of the Communist Party of China (CPC), led by Wen Jiabao, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club here Dr Venneker said that homeopathy was a modern scientific treatment which was gaining popularity among the people, even in the developed countries.

He pointed out that where orthodox medicine fail to cure any serious disease, it could be cured by the homeopathy system of medicine. Dr Venneker, a homeopathy physician from Australia, said that the demand for homeopathy treatment was growing rapidly in Australia, and the Queensland government had responded by establishing a homeopathy college.

NAP for bi-cameral parliament

National Awami Party (NAP) leader Prof Mozaffar Ahmed yesterday called for establishing a bi-cameral legislature to consolidate democratic dispensation in the country, reports UNB.

In a statement Prof Mozaffar said all the democratically advanced countries including the UK, considered as a citadel of democracy, have bi-cameral law-making bodies.

The NAP leader held the view that the bi-cameral parliament is more effective in maintaining the check and balance in making laws.

This bi-cameral parliamentary system is playing an important role in consolidating democracy in Japan, Germany and, even in neighbouring India. Pakistan has also adopted the bi-cameral parliament, he said.

The NAP president said countries like Bangladesh where there is no scope for intellectuals like professors, artists, journalists and academicians to get elected in the existing electoral system, it is imperative to establish bi-cameral system for advancement of democracy in the country.



Deputy leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad speaking at a function organised by the Pabna Welfare Trust to mark the 13th death anniversary of noted diplomat Hossain Ali in the city yesterday. Also seen in the picture from (L to R) chief election commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf and president of the trust Anisul Islam.

—Star photo

## Weather

## Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with fair sky is likely to prevail over Bangladesh in the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday).

Slight fall in the night temperature is likely to be felt, according to Met office.

The country's highest temperature of 30.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Teknaf while the lowest of 11.2 degrees Celsius at Sitakunda.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 5:35 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 6:44 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and relative humidity of the divisional districts as recorded yesterday are:

Cities	Temperatures in degrees Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.5	14.8	77	65
Chittagong	29.0	15.2	80	71
Rajshahi	28.2	13.8	88	71
Khulna	28.7	13.8	72	68
Barisal	28.6	14.0	83	65

## Foundation laying ceremony held

CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan underscored the role of education in alleviating poverty from the country, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of a higher secondary school at Nimgala here today.

The Minister said there was no alternative of education in building a prosperous society and a developed nation.

While pointing out the various programmes of the government in alleviating illiteracy from the country, Zahiruddin Khan said present government allocated maximum budget provision for the education sector.

He called upon the affluent and elite class to come forward to work with the government in spreading education in their respective localities.

## Credit on easy terms for unemployed

RAJSHAHI, Jan 14: State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haq today said, the BNP government has undertaken a programme to distribute credit on easy terms among the distressed and unemployed people for creating job opportunity, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a loan distribution programme under the auspices of Youth Development Department, Rajshahi at Krishnapur of Tanore thana of the district the state minister said, the government was pursuing the policies to build eligible manpower for alleviating poverty from the country.

The state minister said, similar loan distribution programme had been launched at 25 thanas in the country in the current fiscal year.

## ভৱিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

## নাট্যচর্চ পরিচালিত

নাট্যশিল্পাঞ্চল নাটকসমূহ এক বছর মেলানী কোর্স

স্থান : পতিল, নাট্যস্থল, মুকোশা ও নটি ধোরাল।

জরিত জন নির্ধারিত ক্ষমতা আবেদনের প্রের তারিখ :

২৫শে জানুয়ারী '৯৪

মোগাদিশ

- চার্চ-শিল্প ক্লাব, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (ভিসলা) সকাল ১০টা থেকে ১টা এবং (নীচে) বিকেল ৪টা থেকে ৬টা।
- নাট্যশিল্প ক্লাবের, ১০ মিনিটুর নাট্যশল নেট, ঢাকা (বিকেল ৪টা থেকে রাত ৮টা)।

## Enrolment has started for the course on Production Management for Apparel Industry

Course starts : January 29, 1994.

Duration : 10 weeks, 5 days a week, 5 to 7 pm each day.

Entry Requirements : (i) Graduate in any discipline, or (ii) Industry's sponsorship.

Fees: Registration Tk 500/-, tuition Tk 10,000/-.

For enrolment/enquiry, contact between 3-7 pm:

Extension & Continuing Education Centre (ECEC)



Independent University, Bangladesh  
119F, Road 1, Banani, Dhaka-1213.

Phone : 604129, 602086, Fax : 883959

## ব্যাণ্ডে মুক্তিযুদ্ধের গান

'৭১ - এর যাত্রী আয়োজিত

পরিবেশনায় : দেশের জনপ্রিয় ব্যাণ্ড-রেবেন্স

আরো গান গাইবেন : রাধীশুলার রায়, শাকিলা জাফর, তপন চৌধুরী, রূপসনা আনন্দী

৪০ মাটকে অংশ নেবেন : আসামজুমান নূর এবং

বিপাশা হারাত

স্থান : শিল্পকলা একাডেমী মিলনায়তন