

Dhaka Day by Day

Fires on the Pavement

by Parveen Anam

Winter is the time of mellow fruitfulness. The lucky few manage to go to village to partake in winter delicacies like the 'pitha' and the celebrations like the 'melas'. It's a beautiful time of the year when we are not attacking each other and is a time when the Dhakaite is generally in a festive mood, trying to enjoy himself as best as he can before the cruel summer months descend on him with all the accompanying woes of water shortages and power failures.

And yet, it is perhaps a rude reality that as for some it is a beautiful time of the year, for others it has its difficulties. Those are the Dhakaite known in government parlance as the 'pavement dwellers'. These are the people who float across the city in search of work and of course not finding any, set up their household on the pavements. They actually settle there quite comfortably all by themselves.

Those at the helm of affairs make a big bang and like to 'evict' them every so often, with much publicised pictures in the newspapers, promptly followed by a bit less publicised brick-battling, usually targeting the hapless driver of the car, who unfortunately happens to be passing by at that time. And of course as soon as the men responsible for their eviction leave, the squatters are back. With a vengeance it seems. Oh, it's a different time come elections, naturally, when somehow the squatters feel quite comfortable, with the authorities looking the other way.

However, what is an inescapable part of these pavement dwellers' miserable existence is their obvious need for food and warmth.

Especially warmth in these cold months. And living off the earth, as it were, they take full advantage of their surroundings to provide themselves with heat and warmth. It is not uncommon to see groups of these unfortunate beings, huddled around small fires on the pavements, which they have lighted to provide momentary relief from the cold. What is interesting is the source of this fire. He is hardly expected to be able to buy the firewood and yet the fire crackles merrily.

If the police or any law enforcing agency, out to do its job properly, would take the trouble, it would immediately notice the source of the 'firewood'. These are the little bamboo fencing dotted the side of the roads, put there to protect the saplings the government plants every so often in its much publicised 'tree plantation week'. These are rather pretty looking round fences, protecting the wee plants, planted at the order of the relevant authority. The purpose of this pretty round fence is to let the plant grow into a tree without being eaten up by the cows and goats wandering around on the roads of the city.

What of course is not seen by the 'authorities' is the tearing up of these very same bamboo fences by the 'pavement people' and then used for firewood, with entire families happily squatting round the fire. The taxpayer obviously is not only paying for the bamboo fence put there for a noble cause, but is carrying the cause even further by providing warmth to the people who tear it up and light a bonfire with it. Right on the pavement. The patrol police have a very funny way of looking the other way.



Goods worth about Tk 15 lakh of an electronics shop at the Outer Stadium was gutted yesterday. — Star photo

Lankan HC condoles death of Mahathero

The High Commissioner (HC) of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh Dr N Haniffa expressed his condolence at the demise of venerable Visuddhananda Mahathero, President of Bangladesh Buddhist Sangha, reports BSS.

The High Commissioner described late Mahathero as an outstanding alumnus of Vidyarlankar University of Sri Lanka. Signing the condolence book Thursday at the Dharmarajika Vihar, the High Commissioner said the late Mahathero was a great scholar and religious leader.

Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday expressed his deep shock at the death of Mahasanghanayaka Bisuddhananda Mahathero.

In a condolence message, Prof Chowdhury said he was a great and widely respected person whose whole life was dedicated to human welfare.

Prof Chowdhury prayed for his eternal peace.

CHITTAGONG, Mar 4: Leaders of political parties, socio-cultural organisations and the eminent citizens here have expressed deep condolence at the death of venerable Bishudananda Mohathero, high priest and spiritual leader of the Buddhist community.

In separate statements they said, in the death of venerable Bishudananda Mohathero the country had lost a great spiritual leader who dedicated his life for harmony and spiritual development of the Buddhists as well as members of other religious communities. The nation would feel the necessity of his dedicated services as the vacuum created by his death could not be easily fulfilled, they added.

Paying tributes to late venerable Bishudananda Mohathero, they prayed for the eternal repose of the departed soul and expressed sympathy with the bereaved members of his family.

Sandhani holds discussion

Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said that there was no alternative to Sandhani regarding the campaign for donation of eyes posthumously, reports BSS.

He was addressing a discussion organised by the Sandhani, a national eye donation association.

Prof Chowdhury assured all possible help to Sandhani so that it could carry out its voluntary blood donation and eye donation activities.

He also visited the Sandhani Dhaka Medical College unit. Noted lawyer Gazi Shamsur Rahman, journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Mustafa Kamal Syed, Prof A Q M S Harun, and Prof Anwarul Haque were present.

Association president Ruhul Amin Majumdar presided.

Council meeting of Shilpakala Academy held

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum Thursday called for strengthening the activities of the Shilpakala Academy, reports UNB.

The State Minister said this while presiding over the 50th council meeting of the Shilpakala Academy.

Stressing on the importance of strengthening the activities of the academy she said that steps have already been taken in this regard.

Progress of different programmes of the academy was also discussed in detail.

Among others, Secretary of the ministry I U M Malik, DG of Shilpakala Academy Mobarak Hossain Khan, Director General of Bangladesh Television Habibur Rahman Khan were present.

Senior officials of Information, Education, Finance and Cultural Ministry were also present.

BJMA expresses concern over workers move

The Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) noted with concern at the move by a small section of the workers to agitate for realising their demand of wages under the Wages Commission, 1993 in the private sector jute mills. But the government had made it abundantly clear that the new wages are applicable only to the state-owned mills. Therefore, the private jute mills are neither obliged nor in a position to pay the workers in accordance with the Wages Commission, 1993, says a BJMA press release.

'Under the circumstances', the press release added 'the workers in the private jute mills are requested to refrain from taking any step that will disrupt production and thus raise the loss being suffered by the industry. It is expected that the workers will realise that hampering production in the mills will ultimately affect the industry and themselves as well.'

BDR inter-sector qirat, azan competition

The inter-sector qirat and azan competition of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) held at the Peelkhana central Jama Mosque after Juma prayers yesterday, reports BSS.

Forty-six competitors took part in the three-day competition. Chittagong sector secured the championship while Rangpur sector became runner up.

Cold storage inaugurated

Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday said, present government is committed to ensure the fair price of agri-products to farmers by providing adequate storage and other facilities.

The minister was addressing the inaugural function of a cold storage at Makuhati under Munshiganj district yesterday. Deputy Minister for LGED also addressed it.

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Applications are invited from persons with a good command of English and competence in English typing for the following posts:

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The High Commission of Sri Lanka
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Gulshan 2.

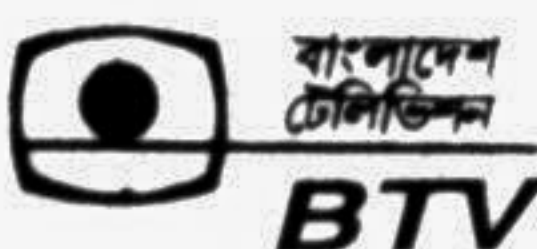
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FEJB to study Farakka's impact on environment

The executive committee of the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) yesterday decided to initiate an indepth field study and a series of reports on the devastating impact of Farakka on environment, economy and life in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The executive committee of the FEJB in its meeting held in the morning at the Press Institute of Bangladesh also decided to undertake study and organise seminars on water resource management, poverty and deforestation, coastal afforestation, environmental impact statement, technological dumping, waste disposal in the Bay of Bengal by the Western countries, sanitation and public health during the current year.

FEJB general secretary Quamrul Islam Chowdhury placed a draft workplan for 1994-95 at the meeting for its consideration. The executive committee after detailed discussion unanimously adopted the workplan of the FEJB.



Saturday

- 4:30 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 4:45 Stories to Remember
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:45 Mahe Ramadan
- 6:40 Shishangan
- 7:05 Bansharee
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Mati-o-Manush
- 9:00 Nazrul song
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Drama serial: Dallas
- 11:15 Khabar/The News
- 11:25 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:30 Closing

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

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

The Met Office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The Met office adds, rainfall likely over the country within a week.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 31.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in Satkhira and the lowest of 11.0 degrees in Srimangal.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6:03pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 6:17 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	30.4	14.4	56	51
Chittagong	30.5	17.6	74	51
Rajshahi	30.4	13.5	65	49
Khulna	31.2	16.6	97	-
Barisal	30.8	15.6	60	67
Cox's Bazar	31.0	18.0	47	66
Sylhet	29.2	14.5	56	51
Dinajpur	29.0	14.4	76	45



The Japanese Embassy in Dhaka held a symposium on 'Oshin and Development - Sharing the Japanese Experience' at Hotel Sheraton yesterday. — Star photo

Application for National Film Award invited

Applications have been invited for the National Film Award 1992 and 1993, reports BSS.

Awards will be given in 25 different fields/branches of film for which the jury board has announced the necessary principles, conditions and information.

Interested producers and directors of films have been asked to apply in specified forms along with a good print of their respective films before March 31 to the member-secretary and vice-chairman of Bangladesh Film Censor Board at 26/1 Chameli Bagh (Shantinagar).

Reception ceremony

The Nareegrantha Prabartana will accord a reception to Jahanara Imam March 7 at the auditorium of TSC, Dhaka University at 11 in the morning, says a press release.

Poet Sufia Kamal will be present at the reception as chief guest.

Int'l Women's Day Mar 8

International Women's Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world on March 8, reports UNB.

To mark the day, 'International Women's Day Observation Committee', a platform of 18 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), has organised a five-day programme beginning today.

The programmes include processions, rallies, discussion meetings and press conference.

Different programmes will be held in Ghatail, Mymensingh and Cox's Bazar today in Jessore on March 6, in Khulna on March 7, in Syedpur, Chittagong, Tangail and Dhaka on March 8.

This year's theme of the day is 'We Want to Build a World Where Women will be Respected,' said a PID hand-out. Women's Affairs Ministry will organise a function at Osmani Memorial Auditorium on March 8.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the function as chief guest while State Minister for Women's Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman preside.

BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসিআর পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Sylhet Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd, Chhatak, Sunamgonj invites sealed tender in Two Envelope System for supply of (a) Green liquor supply pump against Tender No. 328 (b) PVC Welding Machine, Compact PVC Insulated copper tube & Antimony Lead pipe against Tender No. 331 and (c) Hydrazine against Tender No. 332 on C & F Chittagong basis under any suitable fund. Tender schedule available at Tk. 50/- per set respectively from (a) BCIC, 30-31 Dilkusha, Dhaka (b) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong and (c) SPPM Ltd, Chhatak, Sunamgonj. Tender alongwith 1% earnest money will be received up to 3-00 PM on 10.4.94 and thereafter opened Technical offer. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC- 203-22/2
DPP(BA) 1572-22/2

G-368

র্যাংগস পরিবারের নতুন উপহার



এখন
বাংলাদেশের
ঘরে ঘরে



পরিবেশক

- শাহ আলী এও কোশানী লিঃ
১১২, নারায়ণ মোকাদ্দাস,
ঢাকা, ফোন : ২৪৫৫৫৫
- ইষ্ট এশিয়া ইলেকট্রনিক্স কোঃ
৪২, নিউ সুপার মার্কেট
বাহাদুর মোকাদ্দাস,
ঢাকা, ফোন : ২৪১১১১
- রাইসান ইলেকট্রনিক্স
৩২, টেডিয়ার মার্কেট,
ঢাকা, ফোন : ২৪৪২০০
- জি. এম. জি. টোপী
১৪, টেডিয়ার মার্কেট,
ঢাকা, ফোন : ২০৫৫০৭
- আবরনী ইলেকট্রনিক্স
১০, টেডিয়ার মার্কেট,
ঢাকা, ফোন : ২০৫৫০৪
- গ্রিন রেডিও হাউস
৫/১, ডিআইটি মার্কেট
নারায়ণপুর, ফোন : ৭৩০০১
- অভিল্যাব
৪১৪, বিন্দী কিতান, চট্টগ্রাম
ফোন : ২২১১৮১, ২২০১০০
- এস এইচ ইলেকট্রনিক্স
১১, রাইফেল ক্লাব শাখা কমপ্লেক্স,
নন্দন কানন, চট্টগ্রাম
ফোন : ২০০৭১৪, ২২৫৫০৪
- সুব্রতন
১০০, বিন্দী কিতান, চট্টগ্রাম
ফোন : ২২৪৫৬৪
- তরঙ্গ ইলেকট্রনিক্স
৪৩০, বিন্দী কিতান, চট্টগ্রাম
ফোন : ২২২৭৩৭
- ফরিদ এন্টারপ্রাইজ
৪৩৬/বি, বিন্দী কিতান, চট্টগ্রাম
ফোন : ২২১০১২, ২২১৭০৬
- মেসার্স খান ইলেকট্রনিক্স
৫২, টেডিয়ার মার্কেট,
ঢাকা, ফোন : ২০৭১২০

র্যাংগস

পূর্বতন বিমান বন্দর সড়ক, ফোন : ৩২৫০০১-৪,
সিডিএ এডমিনিস্ট্রেশন, চট্টগ্রাম, ফোন : ২১১২২৪, শো রুম : কাকরাইল, ঢাকা