

# Dhaka Day by Day

## "Vote for the Mosquito"

by Parveen Anam

The Dhakaite has just about had it. Day and night, he is being bombarded with the achievements of the individuals who in all nabete, actually expect the harassed citizen to vote him back into power. For what, the Dhakaite mutters sullenly to himself. So that he can wade through the garbage, on roads that are being dug up as soon as they are being repaired? Or so that he can teach his children to swim on the streets of Dhaka, where a 30 minute shower turns the largest roads into mammoth swimming pools? Thank you, but no thank you, is the first reaction of the Dhakaite.

Yet a small group of citizens who dare to challenge the dull complacency of the average Dhakaite, have perhaps already committed their first major mistake: they have dared to challenge the integrity of the Dhakaite. Throw him into the deep end where politics is concerned and he will come through with shining colours; entertain him with the force of a 'civilized' city and he will smile cynically, throw the eternal VAT at him and he will grumble. But never, on pain of being ostracized, never question his integrity, is his theory of life — the simple Dhakaite.

They don't actually ask for much and they certainly get nothing. In fact, even the Power

Development Board people have now decided to join the ranks and make a farce of the electric supply, switching on and switching off the generators as and when they please. Moreover, with VAT on just about everything, the Dhakaite is left without his electric appliances which all blow off at the erratic tricks of the Power Board.

Yet, on one issue the Dhakaite stands united

and when one pauses to think of how small and insignificant this 'issue' looks, it is astonishing the power it has. It has managed to unite a nation and a race and if given a chance, will probably annihilate them forever. Yes, it is the mosquito. Frantic, desperate, the Dhakaite's good sense has been put on the guillotine by those who matter and the mosquito is having the time of its life at the Dhakaite's expense. Each

successive 'elected representative of the people' (how they love that term) is actually elected to represent the mosquito. For as soon as he/she ascends the throne of power, every promise made in the made electioneering campaign seems to go out the window and the Dhakaite is taken for a ride.

Perhaps we are meant to see one bleak promise after the other broken as we spend our sleepless nights (a) with the mosquitoes for company and (b) with the miscreants cutting the grills and getting into the house to loot rob and maim. And all the while, the elected representative, with total trust in the strangely quiet exterior of the Dhakaite, keeps on making and breaking promises as though they did not matter a fig. But again, like the minister's cars and drivers thinking themselves above the

law in breaking and skipping the traffic laws and lights, perhaps they are themselves above harassment by the mosquito. But what they forget each time, because power has a strange way of making people forgetful, is that they shall have to answer to the Dhakaite at the next elections. The 'Vote for Mosquito' symbol will not get them far enough, they might discover, much to their discomfort.



Menacing mosquitoes.

—Star Photo



The stranded launch passengers at city's Sadarghat Launch Terminal during 6-hour hartal yesterday.

### Press Council announces 21-point code of conduct

Bangladesh Press Council has announced a 21-point code of conduct for the country's newspapers, news agencies and journalists, reports BSS.

The 21-point code of conduct are as follows:

1. It is the responsibility of a journalist to keep the people informed of the issues which attract them or influence them. The news and its language have to be prepared showing complete honour to the individual right and sensitiveness of people as well as the newspaper readers.
2. The newspapers and newsmen have to ensure truth and accuracy of available information.
3. The information received from reliable sources could be published for the interest of the people without any risk for punishment. A journalist has to be given reprieve of adverse situation created from publishing a news for the interest of the people with an honest intention and information in the news item is found logically reliable.
4. Rumours and baseless reports should be identified before publishing and if they are considered not suitable for publication one should refrain from publishing it.
5. The news items which have contents devoid of honesty and is baseless or attempt to break the confidence cannot be published.
6. The newspapers and newsmen have the right to express their own opinion strongly on controversial issues but while doing so, (Incomplete)

### Eid-reunion held

RAJSHAHI, Mar 23: State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain today called upon the party supporters to politically foil the conspiracy hatched by some opposition parties, reports BSS.

He said this while addressing an Eid re-union function jointly organised by Rajshahi District and city BNP here at a local high school ground this afternoon.

Presided over by city BNP President Advocate Ekhlauque Hossain, the function was addressed, among others, by Lutfunnessa Hossain, MP, Advocate Kamrul Munir, General Secretary, Rajshahi District BNP and former parliament members Moinuddin Ahmed Manik and Rahmatunnessa.

Kabir Hossain advised the party members to form committee in each mohalla within one month with the objective of working for total benefit of the people.

### Aflatoxin Lab opens today

Aflatoxin Laboratory, first of its kind in the country, will formally be inaugurated in the city today, reports UNB.

State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan will inaugurate the laboratory at the conference room of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) at 9:00 am.

The laboratory, aiming at protecting the people from mycotoxins effects, has been set up at the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST), BCSIR, under Bangladesh-UK Scientific Cooperation Project involving Tk 226.48 lakh for an initial period of three years.

An initial evaluation of levels of aflatoxin in Bangladesh rice was carried out in 1979-80 under a collaborative project between the BCSIR and Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, Brighton in UK.

### DU IRAA Eid reunion deferred

The second installation and Eid-reunion of the International Relations Alumni Association (IRAA) of Dhaka University, scheduled for March 28, has been deferred due to unavoidable reason, reports UNB.

The function would now be held at the auditorium of Planning and Development Academy at Nilkhet on April 28, said a press release.

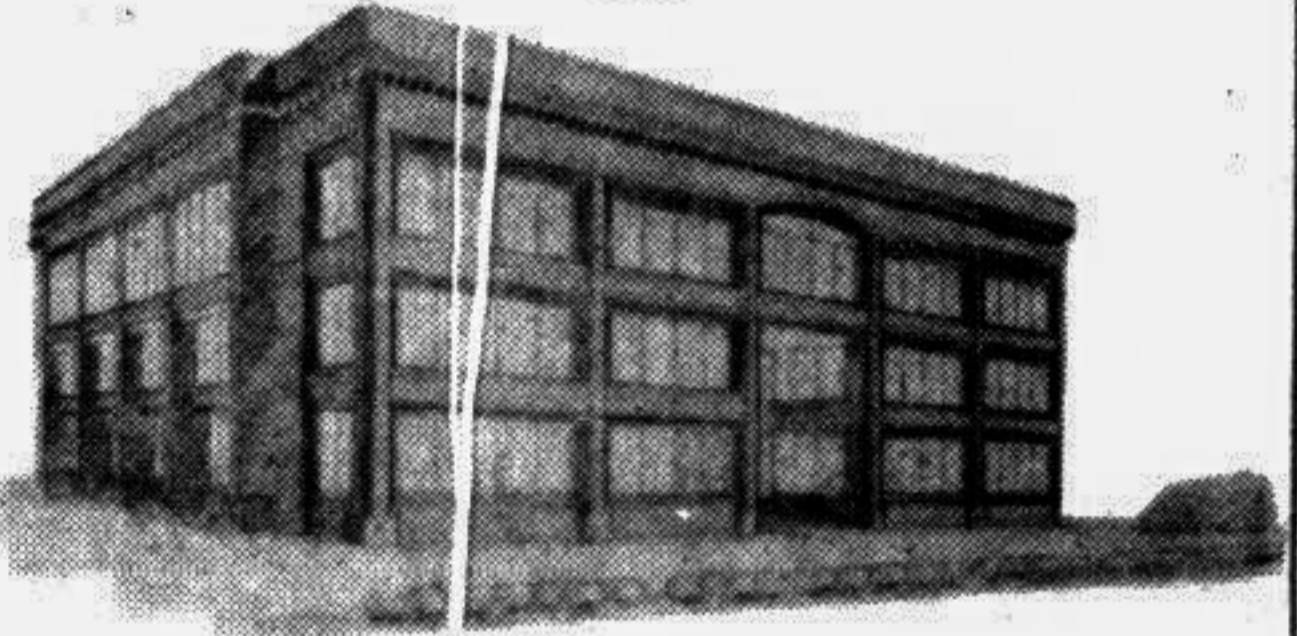
### SPGRC observes national day

Stranded Pakistanis, living in camps in and around Dhaka city, celebrated the National Day of Pakistan yesterday in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

To observe the day, milad mahfil, Qurankhwani and discussion were held at the central office of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC).

Lord David Ennals, Chairman of the UK-based Resettlement Committee of Stranded Pakistanis, attended

We have shifted to our own new office at



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Poet Sofia Kamal is seen receiving the Democracy Award from the British High Commissioner in Dhaka Peter Fowler. The Award giving ceremony was held at a local hotel yesterday.

### IUBAT lecture

Dr Thomas H Bruening, Visiting Professor of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) from Pennsylvania State University, USA delivered a lecture on Agricultural Education in USA, Tuesday.

Prof Bruening covered key events in history which helped formulate agricultural higher education in USA, the philosophy and current status of US higher agricultural education, says a press release.



- 1:30 Opening announcement
- 1:40 Al Quran
- 1:50 Programme summary
- 2:00 Programme on dance: Ramjhum
- 2:10 News in Bangla
- 2:20 National school level TV debate competition
- 2:30 Mass Education
- 2:40 Programme: Esho Para Shikhi
- 2:45 Religious programme: Jiboner Alo
- 2:55 Nazrul songs
- 3:00 News in Bangla
- 3:10 Drama of the week: Anurag
- 3:20 News in English
- 3:30 Mini series: Joe Wilson
- 3:40 Khabar/The News
- 3:50 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 4:00 Closing of session



### Laila's 1st solo show of prints, mixed media opens tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

A fortnight-long solo maiden exposition of prints and mixed media by Laila Sharmeen opens at Galerie de L'Alliance Francaise at 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, tomorrow.

Professor Mohammad Kibria, a noted artist of the country and a pioneer of the print media, will inaugurate the exhibition at 6:00 pm Friday.

Director of Alliance Francaise Xavier Bares will be present as the special guest.

The show will run from 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm until April 7 barring Saturdays.

Thirty works will be on display. The theme of the present show is the 'Hallowness of the Twentieth century man'.

Laila was born in 1964 in Dhaka and had her Master of Fine Arts from the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University in 1990.

### Weather

### Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal and Dhaka divisions.

The Met Office forecasts, weather may remain dry elsewhere over the country during the next 12 hours commencing from 6 am today (Thursday). Slight falling day temperature is likely over the coastal region while temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, it adds.

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