

Dhaka Day by Day

Sultry Summer's Saving Grace

by A S M Nurunnabi



Now that the winter season is at an end, we are face to face with the summer season with its many trials and tribulations. The summer in our country can be at times very punishing. Of course, the heat of this season is sometimes relieved by the cooling showers of *Kalbaishakhi*. But this is no unmixed blessing. The devastating storms that often accompany *Kalbaishakhi* are looked upon with fear and trepidation by the poorer sections whose shelters cannot withstand the onslaughts of the *Kalbaishakhi* storms. Since this is part of our weather pattern, we have learnt to live with it.

With the end of the month of *Baishakh*, much of its terror may be considered over. But then we will have spells of hot and humid weather which will make our day-to-day life extremely uncomfortable. Since we are geographically placed in the tropical zone, this sultry state of weather is a normal phenomenon over which there should be no cause for grumbling. However, human nature being what it is, we hear a lot of complaints and groaning when we come under a hot spell.

Lately there has been erratic behaviour of our climatic conditions. This year the winter was much less intense. This is believed to have some ecological consequence. For example, according to some ornithologists, this accounted for about 40 per cent reduction in the arrival of migratory birds into our country. Of course, for a poor country like ours, a mild winter is a boon for the poorer classes who can ill afford adequate cover for themselves against the rigour of winter. The change in the severity of winter may be a trick of the "green-house effect."

Although lately there have been occasional showers, sometimes heavy in some districts, we have experienced, off and on, spells of hot and humid weather which have caused much suffering to the people in general. Of course the agony of those who suffer under the hot spell will not be understood by those who pass

their time under air-coolers. The latter's is a world apart.

You cannot but help feeling pangs of anguish when you see a vast majority of people doing manual labour in the open. They cannot afford to be sensitive to the rigours of hot weather. When we watch a rickshaw-puller pedalling his way or a road worker engaged in laying asphalt on the road in the noon-day heat, we wish there were mechanised ways of doing their chores.

Even during short spells of sultry weather, we come across scenes of utter tranquility and repose presented by some people in some parks and open spaces under the shade of big trees in the city, which may arouse our envy. Such lounging in the open air with an air of abandon and care-free attitude may give rise to the feeling that these people have fallen asleep under the spell of magic.

Talking to day labourers can be an illuminating experience. Matin, a labourer from Barisal, for example, can seldom take breaks from his gruelling work in the sun. But he admits that being used to working in such conditions, he does not care much about the state of weather, fair or foul. Ramiz, a rickshaw-puller from Chittagong, tells almost the same story. But he says that the intervals between his fares provide the only time for a bit of rest and relaxation at a cool place.

They do not have a good opinion about the people found lounging in open air in parks and open spaces. According to them, most of such people are either vagabonds or beggars. They think that those who have a living to earn can ill afford to while away their time in such idle fashion.

However, the idyllic picture that the loungers in parks and open spaces present on a hot afternoon exerts a sort of soothing influence on the taut nerves of observers. This is a redeeming aspect of the otherwise choking atmosphere on a hot afternoon.

Comilla Bar Assoc team meets Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon the lawyers to play their due role in the socio-economic activities of the country, reports UNB.

"The lawyers belong to a very dignified profession and they can serve the people by securing justice for the aggrieved persons", Biswas said to a 8-member delegation of Comilla Bar Association while they called on him at Bangabhaban.

The President exchanging views with the lawyers' team advised them to study law devotedly and equip themselves with knowledge for success in the profession.

He said we should be respectful to rule of law and hateful to anarchy and terrorism for institutionalising the democracy in the largest interest of the nation.

Earlier, in a memorandum the members of the Comilla Bar sought help of the President for expansion of the Bar Association building. The President assured them of help.

Advocates Mohammad Abdur Rouf Khan, Mohammad Abdul Wahab Khandakar, Mohammad Abul Khair, Mohammad Fazlur Rahman, Mohammad Nazrul Islam, HM Tahir Alam and Mohammad Mahbubul Alam were present on the occasion.

Radio officers resent circular

The officers of Radio Bangladesh who have passed senior-scale examination in a meeting Saturday resented the promotion of others to the scale in "violation" of rules, reports UNB.

Held at the National Broadcasting Authority Bhaban, the meeting observed that the circular on the basis of which the Information Ministry recommended the promotion of those who have not gone through the examination contravened the basic rules — the Senior scale Examination Rules 1986.

The meeting sought intervention of the Prime Ministry and the Information Minister for mitigating the grievances of the Senior Scale-passed officers of Radio Bangladesh.

"No other Ministry has so far given such promotion on the basis of the circular of the Establishment Ministry," said the meeting held with Baharam Siddiqui in the chair.

"Such circular is a flagrant violation of the basic rules of promotion and constitutional rights and will seriously affect the career of junior and brilliant officers who passed the senior-scale examination," the meeting noted.

Commemorative stamps

Bangladesh Post Office will issue a set of two commemorative postage stamps valued Tk 4 and Tk 6 respectively along with a first day cover valued Tk 5 on the occasion of 75th anniversary of International Labour Organisation tomorrow, reports UNB.

Weather

Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

The weather forecast by the Met Office for the next 12 hours commencing from 6 am today (Monday) says, dry weather is likely to prevail over the country.

The day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degrees Celsius over the country, during this period.

The country's highest temperature of 38.4 degrees Celsius yesterday was recorded in Rangamati and the lowest of 19.6 degrees Celsius in Srimangal.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	36.5	22.6	42	41
Chittagong	35.0	24.3	65	44
Rajshahi	37.3	22.7	42	33
Khulna	37.2	22.4		44
Barisal	36.0	23.5	61	64
Cox's Bazar	36.3	26.5	62	53
Sylhet	33.7	21.0	78	42
Dinajpur	36.8	21.5	34	25



Mohammad Hanif, Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) addressing a public meeting in front of the Awami League central office after the hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

Shopowners want law to restrict hartals

A delegation of the shopowners' associations while meeting Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury Saturday pleaded for restricting hartals by enacting law to protect their interest, reports UNB.

Members of the delegation representing the Federation of Bangladesh Shopowners' Associations and the Dhaka Metropolitan Shopowners' Association told the minister that they were badly affected by hartals and political chaos.

The Awami League and the Jatiya Party have called for countrywide hartal Sunday and April 26 to protest Thursday's killing during the siege of the Secretariat and force the government to step down in favour of a caretaker government.

Leaders of the shopowners held that hartals were not the only weapon to realise political demands.

Bangla-Malaysia Friendship Society launched

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman Saturday stressed the need for exchange of modern technology between Bangladesh and Malaysia to step up development of the two fraternal countries, reports UNB.

"We can learn a lot for accelerating our progress and prosperity from Malaysia, one of the fast-developing nations in the Asia-Pacific region," said Mostafiz while inaugurating Bangladesh-Malaysia Friendship Society at Hotel Sonargaon Saturday evening.

The Foreign Minister also emphasised building cooperation in all other fields of interaction to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan spoke on the occasion as special guest.

The function was also addressed by Malaysian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Ahmed Fuzi Bin Hazi Abdul Razak.

He advised the society to prepare projects towards this direction.

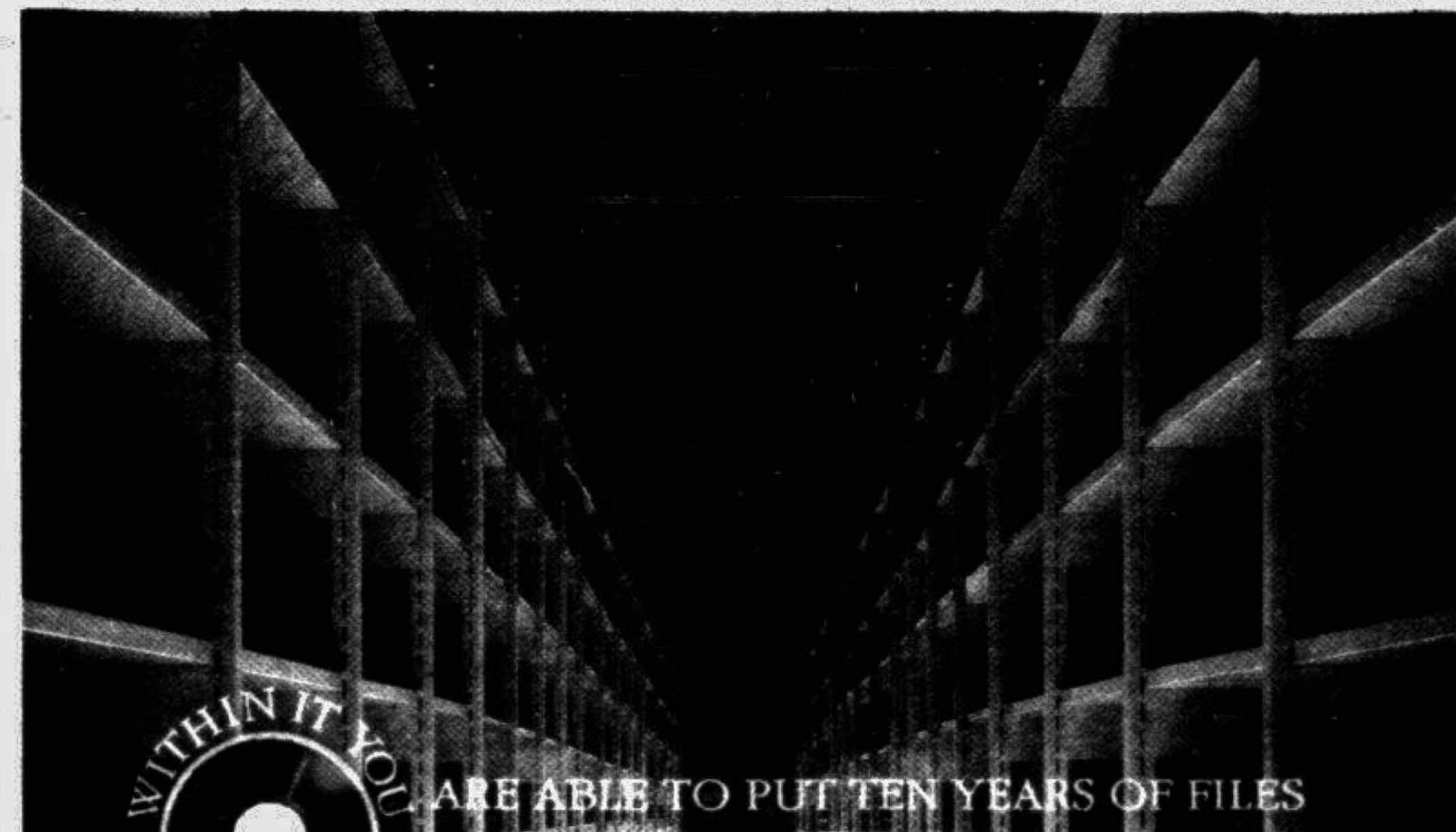
Explaining the basic principles of Bangladesh foreign policy, Mostafiz said "the cornerstone of it is to develop friendship with all, make efforts for building regional co-operation and promote bilateral relations with all countries."

The Labour Minister thanked the Malaysian government for employing thousands of Bangladeshi workers in their development projects. He hoped more workers would be recruited from Bangladesh.

President of the Society Niamatullah Sabu MP explained the objectives of the newly formed organisation and said it would work in all fields in promoting relations between Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur.

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BRANCH OFFICE

As a part of its plans to further widen its service to the valued customers, Singapore Airlines announces the opening of its Branch office at Gulshan, Dhaka on

9th April, 1994.

The Address :
Singapore Airlines : Branch Office
Bilkis Tower (4th Floor) Building -6 Road - 46
Gulshan 2nd Circle Dhaka - 1212.
Tel : 883364, 881082, 886731

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BANGLADESH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GROUP LIMITED (BITGL) a newly formed computer software company consisting of 23 IT computer companies in Bangladesh and promoted by ITC/EPB envisages to train and develop software professionals in Bangladesh with a view to secure international software export market by using their expertise.

BITGL is now looking for a Chief Operating Officer, to be based in Dhaka, who will be directly responsible to the Board of Directors. He/she will be responsible to build BITGL to an internationally respectable software house and procure and conduct software exports.

Interested candidates are requested to forward detailed CV with photographs latest by 18th April to:

Mr. Saif Shahid
Managing Director, BITGL
c/o National Computers Limited
69, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi
Dhaka 1209

SAUDI BANGLA FISH FEED LTD.

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INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tender on C & F. ICD Dhaka basis are hereby invited from the bonafide Manufacturer / Suppliers/Agents for Supply of following Shrimp & Fish Feed Ingredients under the heading of Prepared Animal Feed as per specifications given in the relevant Tender Documents:

SL.No.	Name of the Ingredients		
Group-A	Group-B:	Group-C:	
01 Vitamin Premix(Shrimp Feed)	01 Binder	01 Protein Concentrate	
02 Mineral Mixture (Shrimp Feed)	02 Yeast Meal	(For Shrimp & Fish Feed)	
03 Vitamin Premix (Fish Feed)	03 Soyabean Lecithine		
04 Mineral Mixture (Fish Feed)	04 Squid Oil		
05 Mould Inhibitor			

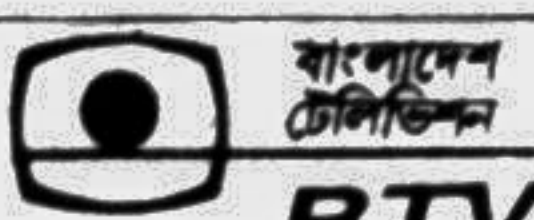
Tender will be received on 15. 05. 94 upto 10.00 A. M. and be opened on the same day at 10.30 A. M. in the premise of SABINCO, Steel House (5th Floor), Karwan Bazar, Dhaka in presence of Bidders if any.

All Bids must be accompanied by earnest money/Bid Bond TK. 1, 00, 000/- (Taka One Lac) only in the form of pay Order/Bank Guarantee. Bids must also be accompanied by sample, Specification/ brochure.

The Tender Document will be available during office hours from Accounts Dept. of the Company on Cash Payment of TK. 500/-only (Non-refundable) till 14-05-94.

The purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the Bids in particular or full without assigning any reason.

General Manager



Monday

4:30	Opening announcement. Al-Ghura Programme summary
4:45	Documentary: Growing Up
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	Sports programme: Football
6:30	Moder Garab
7:00	Moder Asha
7:25	Open University
8:00	Nazrul songs
8:30	News in Bangla
9:00	Janamat Musical programme: Geethan
10:00	News in English
10:30	Comedy series: Murphy Brown
11:00	Musical programme: Disco Rully
11:30	Khobar/The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary

Obituary

Mohammad Moazzem, Chief Purser of Bangladesh Biman died of heart attack at a hospital in New York last Thursday. He was 54, says a press release.

His qulkhwan will be held tomorrow after Aar prayers at 4/2 Salimullah Road, Mohammadpur.