

Dhaka Day by Day

The Pains of Partying

by Aasha Mehreen Amin



As the heat brings one's energy level to negative points nothing could be more wearisome than being invited to a party that you would rather not go to but are obliged to do so. Just when you have conjured up a beautiful vision of yourself curled up in your bed with a bag of munchies to spend a delicious day in front of the tube this weekend, an ominous ring of the telephone will wake you from your reverie. This is none other than your husband's twice removed cousin or your wife's uncle's son in law's brother begging you to attend his four-year old precious darling's birthday. While you try to think of a hundred excuses, somehow the words are soundless and drowned in the pleadings on the other end of the phone. There is nothing much to do except say yes, mentally saying goodbye to a restful Friday.

Thus with an inward groan of irritation one reluctantly takes out the ever depleting wallet for the kid one has never seen and whose name one cannot even hope to remember. This can be an ordeal in itself. It is not that there aren't enough things that would amuse a four-year-old. The super markets are bursting with Barbie dolls, Leggo blocks, toy machine guns, miniature BMW's boxes of chocolates and so on. All these items are foreign made and so have astronomically high price tags. At this point you may toy with the idea of giving the kid Sunil Ganguli's *Purba Paschim*, or Jane Austin's *Pride and Prejudice* but then you remember that a four-year-old probably hasn't started reading. In the end you will possibly end up emptying your wallet over a greenish fiend called the Ninja Turtle.

Getting oneself to dress up and actually go to the birthday party is quite an effort. During this process one asks for the thousandth time why adults are invited to little kid's parties? Is it to give the opportunity to revive one's childhood or is it due to a kind of insecurity parents go through when faced by a mob of

boisterous children?

Once there, the birthday party experience is one that you are unlikely to forget especially since you will have to relive it again and again.

The first obvious thing is the overwhelming majority of adults looking as bored as you will in due course. The birthday child may look a little bewildered by the age difference between himself and his guests. He may wonder how they will look in the party hats his mother has brought or whether they will eat up all of his precious birthday cake. Fortunately he may notice one or two other youngsters that these intruding 'grown ups' have brought along with them and this may lift up his spirits.

For the unenthusiastic adult guest, however, he must endure at least a couple of hours of the birthday party blues. The food, for one thing, may be quite a disappointment. Usually it is in individual plates with each plate consisting of a little piece of cake, some *chanachur*, a dried up *shondesh*, a greasy mutton patties and last but not least, half a blackening banana. Why this last item has become such a permanent item of the birthday party food plate, is something that requires extensive research.

After the food episode is over comes game time. If of course, there are any kids other than the birthday child. This, however, does not include you no matter how much you would like to relive the 'musical chairs' experience. Thus you are confined to a chair to watch endless rounds of 'pass-the parcel', 'treasure hunt', 'statue', bursting the balloons and everyone's eardrums etc.

By the end of this ordeal, if you have survived a few onslaughts from the four-year-old bully, who relentlessly punched you in the stomach, poured icecream on your best sari or pulled out all the hair pins from your hair knot, don't say things like - 'never, never again'. Just wait a week or two for the next phone call announcing yet another birthday party!

Ajker Kagoj to honour 6 top personalities

Ajker Kagoj, a Bengali daily, will award six pro-liberation personalities of the country for their commendable role in different fields during the last century of the Bangla century, reports UNB.

The award winners are: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (best Bangalee), Jahannara Imam (greatest freedom fighter), Shamsur Rahman (poetry), Mohammad Nasiruddin (journalism), Quamrul Hasan (art) and Begum Sufia Kamal (best woman organiser).

Editor of the daily Col (Retd) Shahed Ahmed told a press conference here yesterday that a 27-member committee comprising professionals and headed by himself had selected the awardees.

The awards consisting of gold medals, will be distributed among the recipients or their representatives at a function on the Pabla Baishak (Thursday) in front of the Ajker Kagoj office at 6 pm.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury will be the chief guest at the function to be followed by a day-long cultural show.

Sheikh Rehana, the youngest daughter of Sheikh Mujib, will receive his medal to be awarded posthumously.

BBIL gets Pepsi awards

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Beverage Industries Ltd yesterday received two Pepsi-Cola awards for its quality products and long-service with the Pepsi-Cola International.

Two top executives of Asia Division of Pepsi-Cola International, Leslie G. Ham, president and George P. Georgitsis, vice president (technical operations) handed over the 'Long Service and Quality' awards to Mia Amanullah, Managing Director of Bangladesh Beverage Industries Limited (BBIL) at a simple ceremony at a local restaurant.

State Minister for Youth and Sports, Sadek Hossain, addressing the function at Panda Garden as chief guest, said that the Pepsi-Cola awards for the BBIL was also an honour for the country.

The minister recalled the BBIL's contribution to the development of the country's sports and hoped that it would extend its co-operation in future.

George P. Georgitsis said that the BBIL strictly controlled its quality and for its recognition the Pepsi-Cola had awarded this local bottler for the third consecutive year.

Obituary

Renowned educationist and former Headmaster of Bogra Coronation Institution Rezauddin Ahmed died on April 7 at Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital. He was 80, reports UNB.

RU press club ransacked

RAJSHAHI VARSITY, Apr 12: A group of students, allegedly belonging to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) stormed the Rajshahi University Press Club this evening and damaged its furniture and fixture, reports UNB.

Madrassahs to get all edn facilities in phases

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday underlined the need for ensuring more practical application of madrassah education to the development efforts of the nation, reports BSS.

Addressing the national representatives conference '94 of Madrassah Teachers' Association in Dhaka the minister said there was no scope for discrimination between general education and madrassah education which is a recognised system of education. He said facilities provided for general education would be extended to madrassah education in phases.

The minister said the students who would receive

Haji camp likely to be opened April 22

Haji camp is expected to be opened on April 22 at Gazipur for sheltering about 14,000 Bangladeshi pilgrims before their departure for Hajj - scheduled for May 19, reports UNB.

Official sources said Monday the pilgrims would be arriving at the camp from April 23 for flying to Jeddah to join the largest Muslim congregation.

They will be airlifted to Jeddah in 21 Biman flights, beginning April 27.

Of them, 6,206 have applied for performing Hajj under government arrangements.

CDC chairman meets Saifur

The visiting chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), Sir Peter Leslie, called on Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at the latter's office in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Outlining various pro-investment measures undertaken by the government the Finance Minister said, the situation prevailing in the country is now quite conducive for portfolio investments (investment in huge projects).

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BTV

Wednesday

4.30	Opening announcement of Quran Programme
4.40	Sports programme: Gillette World Sports Special
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Population Programme: Agamce
5.45	Tagore songs
6.10	Open University Documentary: Amra Manush
6.50	News in Bangla
8.00	Film show: The A-Team
9.05	News in English
10.30	Magazine: Kathamala
11.30	Khabar/The News
11.40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11.45	Closing

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Kashipur school team meets Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said in Dhaka yesterday that the present democratic government had attached great importance to female education to increase the literacy rate among them who constitute nearly 50 per cent of the total population. Besides other incentives, education for girl

students upto class-VIII outside the municipal area has been made free, he added, reports BSS.

President Biswas was talking to a 15-member delegation of Kashipur Secondary Girls School of Barisal sadar, when they called on him at Bangabhaban.

Positions Vacant

We are a twenty year old group of companies involved in International Ocean Shipping, Aviation, Manufacturing, Trading & Logistics.

We will be inducting trainees in our "Logistics" Department. Fresh science/commerce graduates should apply with their resume and passport size photographs to Box No D-243, C/o. The Daily Star, House No 11, Road No 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205 by 20 April 1994.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Female Secondary School Assistance Project

Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education

T T College Campus, Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1205

Job Opportunity

Project Implementation Unit of the Female Secondary School Assistance Project under the Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education invites application from the bonafide citizens of Bangladesh for the following posts. The Project period will be seven years.

Sl No	Name & Scale of posts	No. of posts	Age limit	Educational qualifications & experience
1.	Project Officer (Field Studies) Tk 2850-125-3725-EB-130-5155/-	2	Not more than 30 years	At least 2nd class Masters Degree in Social Sciences. Minimum three years experience in developing survey research instruments for Education Project Familiarity with Statistical Analysis, Graphics & Related Software. Evidence of good writing ability preferred.
2.	Project Officer (Field Operations) Tk 2850-125-3725-EB-130-5155/-	1	Do	At least 2nd class Masters Degree with at least three years experience in Teaching or in Educational mid-level Management. Strong orientation towards extensive work in the field.
3.	Accountant. Tk 1475-90-2105-EB-95-3150/-	2	18-30	At least 2nd class Degree in Commerce & at least three years experience in Accounting & Budgeting in Private or Public Sector.
4.	Accountant-Cum-Clerk. Tk 1375-80-1935-EB-85-2850/-	8	Do	At least Bachelors Degree in Commerce. At least two years experience in Accounting & Budgeting.
5.	Machine Operator-Cum-Technician. Tk 1125-55-1510-EB-60-2170/-	1	Do	At least read up to class Eight with experience in operating Photocopier & Duplicating Machine.

Important Information

- Application in plain paper with two recent passport size photographs giving full bio-data which should include (a) Name; (b) Father's name; (c) Date of birth; (d) Present address; (e) Permanent address; (f) Educational qualification with division; (g) Experience Certificate; (h) Character Certificate (attested by Class I gazetted officer); (i) Attested copies of all original certificates; (j) Nationality Certificate; (k) One self-addressed envelope.
- Candidate who is in service should apply through proper channel & age may be relaxed for Government servants.
- A non-refundable Postal Order/Pay Order of Tk 100 (one hundred) for Sl No 1&2; Tk 70 (seventy) for Sl No 3, 4 & 5 should be enclosed with the application in favour of the Project Director, Female Secondary School Assistance Project, Dhaka.
- Quotas & age will be maintained for freedom fighters, women candidates & tribal people as per Government rules.
- The applications must reach to the undersigned on or before 30th April/94 & age of the candidate will be calculated on that date.

Begum Touhida Faruki

Project Director
FSSAP, DhakaDFP(G) 6769-7/4
G-618

Weather

Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Weather is likely to remain dry with a temporary partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 12 hours commencing from 6 am today (Wednesday).

The Met Office forecasts, temperature may rise in one to two degrees of Celsius across the country during this period of time.

The highest temperature of the country was recorded of 38.5 degrees Celsius in Ishwardi and the lowest of 18.5 degrees Celsius in Dinajpur.

The sun sets today at 6.19 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.39 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degrees Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	35.6	24.2
Chittagong	34.5	25.2
Rajshahi	37.8	21.3
Sylhet	32.5	20.6
Barisal	36.2	23.8