

Dhaka Day by Day

When Celebration Turns into Shame

by Iftikhar A Chowdhury

After the traditional *Botomul* soiree, welcoming the advent of Bangabda 1401 at the Ramna Park, the programme's organiser, *Chhayanaut*, a leading cultural front of the country, which has over the years played a leading role in the celebration of the Bangla New Year's day, came up with a very resolute declaration. At the end of the cultural programme the organisers declared that they would refrain from performing the same programme next year if the proliferation of unauthorised shops or rather food stalls, was not stopped. They also maintained that if business motive was allowed to get over our healthy cultural mooring, then *Chhayanaut* would have no choice other than completely withdrawing itself in future from this most secular function marking the Bangla New Year.

Obviously, to most people who managed to get near to the *Botomul* braving an impenetrable thick crowd and oppressive heat that day received the announcement by *Chhayanaut* with a heavy heart. Without *Chhayanaut* no celebration of the New Year's Day can be complete. But people with a cultural bend of mind cannot help supporting the stand *Chhayanaut* has taken. The cultural organisation has not only been



The tradition soiree at Ramna Park welcoming the Bangla New Year.

giving a rendition of songs but also through it promoting a cultural and aesthetic state of mind. *Chhayanaut's* is no easy job. Because at a time when the beast is all set to overpower beauty, *Chhayanaut* has sided with the latter and together they are going strong. As an audience at the *Botomul* programme emphasised, "Like *Chhatimtola* in Shantiniketan, the *Botomul* at the Ramna has an irresistible appeal for the collective mind of the Bengalees here. And anyone who tends to bring sacrilege upon this event should be severely dealt with." He also mentioned that this programme cannot be judged at its face value as it reflects everything that is our own and everything that we hold dear to our hearts.

The *Botomul* congregation is increasingly being robbed of its glory over the years. It had become a very desirable venue for pick-pockets, eve-teasers earlier and recently, the fast mushrooming unauthorised shops have dealt the last blow to desecrate this auspicious occasion. The *Botomul* premise is already finding it very difficult to cope with the increasing number of audiences each year and the presence of food stalls only aggravate the situation. As the unauthorised stalls occupy a substantial portion of the *Botomul* area, it results in thickening the crowd even more and eventually makes things easier for the handful of ruffians who roam in hordes like wolves for a suitable prey. Their prey is a girl or woman caught in the tangle of crowd they themselves have created. These perverted goons swoop with their ugly hands in the worst possible manner on the female body. Thus the New Year's Day is turned into a black day, the nation is shamed.

What is therefore needed is not to give any leeway to these culprits, rather they must be caught and dealt with severely. However, a few practical measures can be thought of to improve the accommodation facilities in the area. The entry points and the

gates of the park have to be widened. If these gates are made broader so that 15-20 people can pass through them, the pressure would certainly lessen to a great extent. People would be able to get in and out more easily. "Probably if the gates at the *Botomul* area are widened enough and the shops are removed, then we may be spared of the indignity a woman suffers at the hands of a few sex maniacs in the chocking crowd," said a frustrated audience.

These occurrences at the *Botomul* cannot be overlooked as isolated incidents. If we allow this to perpetrate it will very soon eat into the very vitals of our culture. As we are a nation rich in culture what will be left of us once its environment is allowed to vitiate?



Japanese Ambassador Shigeo Takenaga (L) and US Ambassador David M Merrill (M) at the opening of Syed Noor Hossain's photo exhibition at La Galerie in the city yesterday. — Star photo

'Women in Bangladesh can still have hopes and dreams'

By Staff Correspondent

Renowned French journalist and writer on women's affairs, Mrs Menie Gregoire, said status of women in Bangladesh today is somewhat comparable to what was the situation in France and Spain 70 years ago, when a woman could not work without her husband's permission.

She was exchanging views with the newsmen at the residence of French Ambassador Jean-Michel Lacombe in the city yesterday.

Mrs Gregoire said she believed that she could change the situation in Bangladesh by helping the women to gain hope and have dreams. "It is important to know that there is a hope and you cannot

progress without hopes and dreams," she commented.

Talking about the position of women in her own country Mrs Gregoire, who is now on a visit to Bangladesh, said that it took seventy years to change

the bad laws. She said that women's associations won the right to vote; demanded equality in marriage, property rights of their own, and the right to own their own money.

Discussing the right to use contraception, she said that there were oppositions from the church, doctors and from men in general. She said that, however, in France women had less obstacles than in other European countries.

Mrs Gregoire said that it was important for feminists to get the support of the TV, radio and the press. She said that when she conducted her radio programmes, people even heard it in the countryside while milking cows.



Ms Menie Gregoire

What's on today . . .

Satyajit Ray Retrospective: Organised by Zahir Raihan Film Society. Film: Kapurush-O-Mahapurush (the coward and the holy man). Venue: Indian High Commission Auditorium, Road No-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.

Yoga Foundation: A joint meditation and discussion meeting of quantum graduates. Speaker: Nasim Ali Rashid. Subject: Importance of Affirmation. Venue: Shams Mall of Jatiya Scout Bhaban. Time: 5 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central: Regular weekly meeting. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30 pm.

Weather

Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by gusty or squally wind are likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Barisal, Khulna and Rajshahi during 12 hours commencing from 6 am today, Met Office forecast.

Day temperature is expected to fall today. Country's highest temperature of 39.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi yesterday while the lowest temperature of 19.6 degree Celsius was reported from Mymensingh.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6:31 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:19 am.

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

City/Town	Temperatures in Celsius		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.8	24.5	92	67
Mymensingh	31.6	19.6	87	74
Chittagong	32.5	27.1	78	70
Cox's Bazar	32.5	27.4	75	78

Woman robbed in city

By Staff Correspondent

A lady was robbed of her gold necklace, wrist watch and ear rings at Dhanmondi in the city while she was learning driving.

The victim, Fahmida Akhtar, an economist, was driving a learner's car of the LSD School of Driving beside the lake at Road 12A when a number of muggers suddenly jumped on the slow moving car and snatched the valuables at daggerpoint.

BCL (B-K) team leaves for Delhi

By Staff Correspondent

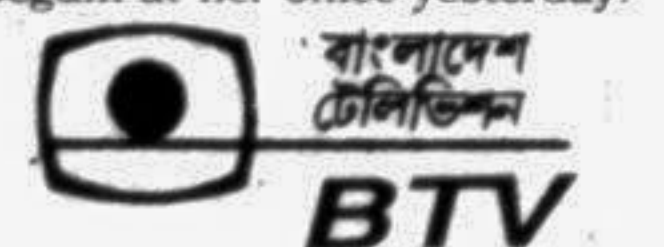
A 15-member team of the pro-JSD Bangladesh Chhatra League (B-K) left Dhaka for New Delhi Saturday to attend the South Asian Youth Festival beginning tomorrow.

The five-day festival, arranged by the Asian Students' Association (ASA), will focus on launching a strong student movement against imperialism, communalism and jingoism in the South Asian countries, a press release said yesterday.

Dhaka-Moscow cultural exchange this yr

A cultural delegation will be exchanged between Russia and Bangladesh by this year, reports UNB.

This was disclosed in a meeting when the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Bangladesh E Shevchenko called on State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum at her office yesterday.



Monday

4:30	Opening announcement Al-Quran
4:45	Programme summary Documentary: Growing up Children
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Sports programme: Football
6:05	Moder Garab Moder Asha
6:45	Open University
7:15	Nazrul Songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Janmasud
9:00	Musical programme: Gosthan
10:00	News in English
10:30	Comedy series: Murphy Brown
11:00	Musical programme: Disco Rally
11:30	Khabar / The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11:45	Closing

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A Multinational Pharmaceutical Company has a vacancy for a Commercial Officer in their buying department.

The candidate should be around 30 years of age with University degree preferably in Science. He must have good command in English both in written and verbal communication. Candidate with few years experiences in Pharmaceutical Company in the field of Customs clearing and forwarding works, import documentation and banking formalities etc & good contacts with the Government offices will be given preference.

Excellent remuneration with other benefits will be offered to the deserving candidate. Please apply in confidence to GPO Box no. 620, Dhaka with a recent passport size photograph.

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology Dhaka

Wanted

No. D-2419 (2) Dated: 8-5-94
Applications are invited from the bonafide citizens of Bangladesh with requisite qualification and fitness for appointment to the following posts of this University.

- Associate Professor** : Pay scale Tk 7100-8700/=
 - Electrical and Electronic Engg. Deptt. : One permanent post.
- Assistant Professor** : Pay scale Tk 4800-7250/=
 - Mechanical Engg. Deptt. : Two temporary posts against leave vacancy.
 - Architecture Deptt. : Four permanent posts. If suitable candidates are not found for appointment to the post of Asstt. Prof., four temporary Lecturer would be appointed against the four permanent posts of Assistant Professor in the scale of Tk 2850-5165/=
- Lecturer** : Pay scale Tk 2850-5155/=
 - Mechanical Engg. Deptt. : Five temporary posts against leave vacancy.
 - Humanities Deptt. : One temporary post of Lecturer in Economics against a permanent post of Assistant Professor.
 - Electrical & Electronics Engg. Deptt. : Four temporary posts against leave vacancy.
 - Civil Engg. Deptt. : Four temporary posts against leave vacancy.
 - Mathematics Deptt. : Two permanent posts.
 - Physics Deptt. : Two permanent posts.

Details of prescribed qualifications and terms and conditions for submission of application may be obtained from the office of the Registrar of this University personally or by sending duly stamped self-addressed envelope.

Candidates having foreign degree/degrees will have to submit equivalence certificate to be obtained from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka along with their applications.

15 (Fifteen) complete sets of applications with the attested copies of all certificates, testimonials, transcript and marksheets are to be submitted to the Registrar of this University along with a crossed Postal Order/Pay Order/Bank Draft of Tk 25/= in favour of the Comptroller of this University. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

Last date for submission of application : 29th May, 1994/15th Jaishtha, 1401.

Registrar (In-Charge)

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