

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Sights and Sounds of a Dhaka Morning

by Parveen Anam



With the day breaking, rickshaws start rolling on the street. Some ride them, others just walk and jog inside the park beside to keep themselves fit. — Star photo

The keep-fit mania seems to be really overtaking the Dhakaites. You have only to get yourself out of bed anytime before seven am and the truth of this observation will be borne out.

After you have managed to convince yourself, once the alarm goes off that it's all for your own good, you put on your sneakers and join the masses on their morning fitness routine. Normally, the miscreants are in bed at that hour, after their 'night before' and you have the roads reasonably safe. Do note the adjective because you still have to share the road with the 'truckwallas' crazily driving in their attempt to reach the 'site' of the rich 'sahib' building his umpteen palace, with the 'construction materials' to be dumped on the road side pavement, which has not already been occupied by the squatters.

As you nimbly jump past the dump of iron roads and bricks with about a dozen 'helpers' of those trucks staring at you as though you have a green carbuncle growing out of your forehead, you run into the other 'occupant' of the pavement, brushing his teeth, staring equally arrogantly at you and spitting as though he is in a contest to see who can spit the furthest.

Somewhat, your patience is stretched at this point to its very thinnest and you are sorely tempted to spit on his face. (I have not yet done it, but do not promise I will not in the future) However, being the stoical type, you continue with your walk.

As you turn the corner at a reasonable speed, you pull up short as the dogs in the

house on other side of the road seem absolutely determined to have you in bits on the pavement, if they can get at you. It's a brave soul who can walk past without quivering, as these awfully vicious dogs, definitely more than one in number, strain at the gate and the fence to get out and get at you. And all the while, the 'security' stands there clearing his throat as though he is about to bring up his gold watch and spitting away to his heart's content.

But patience. All is not lost yet. As you mutter incoherently to yourself and promise to stay in bed tomorrow morning, you stop. For there with the morning breeze, comes the sound of the cuckoo, singing away with nary a thought or care in the world, to be promptly answered by another some distance away. You are transported to a different world, to Wordsworth's domain, as you glance up at the trees to see that elusive bird making music as it goes along. Wordsworth's lines "O blithe new comer I have heard, I hear thee and rejoice. O cuckoo shall I call thee bird or but a wandering voice" come tumbling from the past, and you are lost.

Lost in the beauty of nature as you see the proud 'krishnachura' blooming a flaming red, not to be outdone by the gentle purple flowers on the next tree and the eternal 'radhachura' with its yellow blossoms on the other.

Perhaps the cuckoo sings a tribute to all that's beautiful and gently reminds us, that all is not lost and let us yet look for the beauty in all things. It does brighten up the day.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on the Folk Festivals of Bangladesh issued by Bangladesh Post Office at her Office in the city yesterday. — PID photo

### Int'l body urges govt to increase taxes on tobacco

An international anti-smoking campaign has urged the Bangladesh government to increase taxes on tobacco products in the new national budget, reports UNB.

The London-based International Agency on Tobacco and Health has recommended that increased taxation on tobacco products should benefit both the economy and the future health of the people.

In a letter to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, David Simpson, director of the London-based organisation, on Wednesday suggested that a rise in the tax on cigarettes and other tobacco goods would bring increased revenue to the government.

"At the same time, by causing a decrease in the total consumption of tobacco, it will lead to a future decline in diseases caused by tobacco smoking and chewing," said the letter, a copy of which was made available to UNB yesterday.



### Morning session

- 8:00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 8:10 News in Bangla
- 8:15 Alor Dishari
- 8:40 Film Show: Border Town
- 9:00 Sports Programme
- 9:25 Major Dad
- 10:00 News in Bangla
- 10:15 Moner Mukurey: Mohar Ali
- 11:05 Film show: Tarzan
- 11:30 Programme on health
- 11:50 Documentary on World Cup Football
- 12:30 Closing of morning session

### Afternoon session

- 3:00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 3:15 Cartoon show: Teenage Mutant Ninja turtles
- 3:40 Movie of the week
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:40 Sports programme
- 6:45 Open University
- 7:15 Modern songs programme: Malancha
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
- 9:05 Magazine: Manobadhikar
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Special discussion on garments industry
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme
- 11:45 Closing

### Weather

#### No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower with temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi Divisions during the next 24 hours beginning from 6 pm Thursday, according to Met office forecast.

Weather may remain dry over Khulna Division. Met office says no appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country during this period.

Country's highest temperature yesterday was 40 degree Celsius recorded in Rajshahi and lowest temperature was 22 degrees recorded at Srimongal.

Sun sets today at 6:33 pm and rises at 5:17 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	35.6	27.2	77	65
Chittagong	33.7	27	78	74
Rajshahi	40	27	78	42
Khulna	36.6	25.6	75	65
Barisal	35.2	28	77	75

### CCC mayor for direct Hajj flight from Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, May 12: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor A B M Mahiuddin Chowdhury yesterday called upon the government to introduce direct Hajj flight from Chittagong to Saudi Arabia, reports BSS.

In a statement here, he said hundreds of Hajj pilgrims from greater Chittagong region are to face many problems because of absence of the facility for flying to Saudi Arabia from Chittagong or going by ship from Chittagong Port to Jeddah.

The mayor hoped that with the development of Chittagong Airport, the government would be able to arrange direct Hajj flight from Chittagong.

### Govt will built 4,032 primary schools

The government will construct 4,032 primary schools at low cost at places where there is no school within two kilometres, State Minister for Education Mohammad Yunus Khan told Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

He told a questioner that the government had no plan presently to nationalise private primary schools in the country.

In reply to another question that stood in the name of Dr AKM Asjad (Jamaat), Khan said NGOs are running 506 primary schools in the country where 57,451 students are studying.

In reply to a supplementary, the minister said he had no information of closing down any NGO-run school following campaign by fundamentalists.

Replying to another supplementary from Begum Shamsunnahar Ahsan Ullah of BNP, the State Minister said 60 per cent female teachers were given appointment in primary schools last year.

### Fellowship for journalists

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Centre for Development Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) with the assistance of Asia Foundation will award two journalists fellowships to work on in-depth reporting for six months.

The BCDJC in a press release yesterday said two journalists — one from an English daily and another from a Bangla daily — will get Taka 5,000 each per month under the programme.

Interested journalists have been requested to contact the BCDJC office at 187 Green Road (2nd floor) Dhaka-1205.



A painting exhibition was held at the residence of French ambassador in the city yesterday. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum and French Ambassador Jean-Michel Lacombe looking at a work. — Star photo

### Khaleda greets Italian PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday felicitated Silvio Berlusconi on his assumption of the office of the Prime Minister of Italy, reports UNB.

In a message, she hoped the existing friendly relations between the two countries would further strengthened during his tenure to the mutual benefits of the two nations.

### Newspaper holiday

All newspaper offices will remain closed on May 21-23 as National Moonlighting Committee has announced that the holy Eid-ul-Azha will be observed throughout the country on May 22, a press release of Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad said yesterday, reports BSS.

Therefore, there will be no newspaper on May 22-24.

### Jobs under IDB

Islamic Development Bank has invited applications for filling up the post of Advisor, Bank Supervision for Maldives Monetary Authority duty station at Maldives capital Male, says an official handout.

The candidate having Master Degree in Finance and at least 10 years of experience in the field of finance and banking may apply in plain paper to the Ministry of Establishment (Foreign Employment Section) through proper channel on or before May 19.

### KAFCO GENERAL MANAGER

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KAFCO is a multinational joint venture company with a US\$ 500 million (Tk. 2,000 Crore) Ammonia Urea Fertilizer Plant in its final stages of implementation at Chittagong.

In preparation for taking over and operation of its modern fertilizer complex, KAFCO is looking for a highly accomplished professional for the position of General Manager Admin & General Services to act as the focal point for day to day administrative and general support services at the Plant Site at Chittagong.

Candidates will be in their mid-forties having Graduate/Post Graduate degree/MBA with 15-20 years of work experience in a major industrial/manufacturing organization including at least 5 years in a senior managerial position. Flexibility, the ability to respond to rapidly changing priorities, credibility and persuasiveness are key qualities for success in the post, as is the ability to deliver results reliably. The role will demand a high level of communication skills, a pragmatic and analytical approach to problem solving and administrative abilities of the highest calibre.

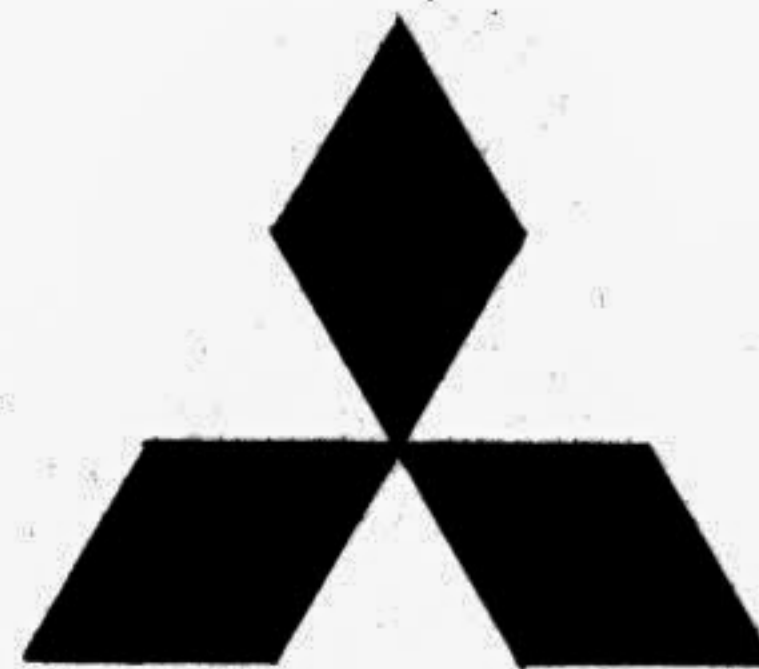
Previous experience in a similar position including administration of residential accommodation, school, transport-pool and security systems will be an advantage.

Interested candidates may send their curriculum vitae, along with list of references and passport photograph to the General Manager HRD and Personnel by May 26, 1994, at the address given below. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

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