

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Enchantment of a Sleeping City

by Iftikhar A Chowdhury



When the veil of darkness spreads over this beloved city of ours, it assumes a different look altogether. It no longer remains the ever-busy metropolis where people always seem to be on the run, the humming of human voices no longer invade one's private thoughts. This sleeping Dhaka then resembles more to a quiet and lethargic mufassil town where life comes to a near standstill by 9 to 10 pm.

It can be a wondrous experience for any adventurous person to take a ride through this city by a rickshaw or walk along the main roads at around 2 am or even later in the night. If you can shrug off your fear of being attacked by the elements of the night, be it natural or super natural, then you can always come out in the streets and have a full share of your nightly adventure.

As it is with the other busy metropolis of the world, one cannot expect to see the neon lights sparkling from a casino entrance, robust and fashionable urban people coming out or going into discotheques to enjoy life, or people of all descriptions frequenting bars that stay awake till the next day's sun peeps through the eastern gates of the horizon. Dhaka by night gives an impression contrary to all these. Its beauty is marked by its unusual quietness, where every little sound created by the human voice is echoed and magnified manifold, because the roads seem to gain in length because of the absence of people. One may very likely to have the feeling of being the king of the road while taking this lonesome journey through the city which is so much known to us, yet so unknown!

There is no reason for one to believe that only muggers, dacoits, prostitutes, policemen and newspapermen are to be seen at that hour of the night. There are other people too, who might be noticed. One may be seen rushing off to a medical emergency unit in an attempt to save a relative's life, or people heading home from long-distance bus terminal or train station.

#### Prof Hai dead

Prof Syed Abdul Hai, former Chairman, Department of Philosophy, Dhaka University, died at a city clinic yesterday afternoon. He was 77, reports BSS.

Namaz-e-Janaza of Prof Hai will be held at the Dhaka University Mosque after Jhor prayers today.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali expressed his profound grief at the death of Prof Hai.

#### Speaker leaves for Saudi Arabia today

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali leaves for Saudi Arabia today to perform Hajj, commencing Friday, reports UNB.

The Speaker has been invited by the royal protocol of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

#### Australian envoy meets Shahabuddin

Kenneth W. Aspinall, High Commissioner of Australia, called on Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

They exchanged views on the subjects of mutual interests, particularly on the working of the legal systems of the two countries.



Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman (extreme left) speaking at a function organised by the Rotary Club of Dhanmondi at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### 'Economic problems responsible for breaking up joint families'

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday underlined the crucial role of the family in ensuring peace, stability and security in the society, reports UNB.

Inaugurating the first International Year of the Family '94, at the Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday morning, President Biswas called for making continuous efforts to build up ideal families.

Describing family as the foundation of the society, the President said that economic problems and unemployment were largely responsible for

breaking up of joint families. He said human beings are, by nature, honest and simple, and this simplicity has to be utilised for peace and progress and for building a healthy family and society.

Welcoming the decision of the United Nations to observe the day in a situation when values were decaying, Biswas called for taking renewed pledge to strengthen the family bondage.

Chaired by Fazlur Rahman, State Minister for Social Welfare, the inaugural function was also addressed by Prof K M

Fariduddin, Secretary Ministry of Social Welfare, UNICEF Representative Rolf C Carriere, ILO Director Werner K Blenk, former advisor Azizul Haque and Acting Director of the Social Welfare Directorate Zillur Rahman.

President Biswas referred to the United Nations declaration of universal human rights as well as the charter on the rights of women and children, and said successful implementation of those would raise the standard of life of the family members.

He said the present government has been working with sincerity to bring about a qualitative change in the life of the members of the family. He said the govt had already introduced programmes for mass literacy, vocational training, integration of women in the development activities, etc.

He stressed the need for adopting a national policy in line of UN policy and programmes, aimed at fulfilling the needs of the families and individuals.

### What's on today . . .

**Jahir Raihan Film Society:** Organises a special film session to mark its 8th founding anniversary. Today's film: Mukh-O-Mukhosh (The face and the mask) Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House No-510, Road No-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Blood Donation Programme:** Organised by Rotaract Clubs of Natore Dame College, Mahanagar North West, Dhaka Udayan, Dhaka Central and Dhaka North. Venue: TSC premises, Dhaka University. Time: 9 am to 1 pm.

**Voluntary Health Services Society:** Workshop on Adolescent Family Life Education. Chief guest: Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of Parliament. Special guest: Dr Harunur Rashid, Secretary, Planning Division. Venue: VHSS Training Hall, Adabar, Shyamoly. Time: 8:30 am.

**Bangladesh Chhatra Union:** 23rd national council. Chief guest: Dr Abdullah Al Mutt Sharfuddin. Venue: Aparajeo Bangla, Dhaka University. Time: 11:30 am.

**Lions Club of Dhaka Oriental:** Regular meeting. Venue: Officers Club, Baily Road. Time: 6:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka Central:** Regular weekly meeting. Speaker: Rtn Altaf Hossain. Subject: Present taxation system and problems. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30 pm.

#### Five get Satyen Sen awards

By DU Correspondent

Five personalities have been awarded Satyen Sen Memorial Award for their outstanding contribution to their respective fields.

The recipients are poet Shamsur Rahman, litterateur Shawkat Osman, Wahidul Huq, Sanjida Khatun and litterateur Sunil Gangopadhyaya of West Bengal.

The Khelaghar, a children organisation, awarded the medals at a colourful function at the Teachers and Students' Centre (TSC) auditorium of the Dhaka University yesterday afternoon.

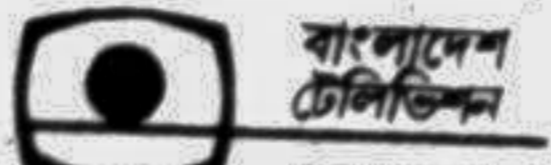
Presided over by Panna Kaiser, chairman of the Khelaghar, the function was attended by Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain, and Gaziul Huq as special guests.

#### 3 killed in Khulna

KHULNA, May 15: Three people were killed, including a woman, and two others injured in three separate accidents in the district on Saturday, police said, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as: Nurun Nahar, 60, Krishnapal, 18, and police official Akhtarul Islam, 22.

Nurun Nahar was killed on the spot when a Rupsha-bound speedy truck hit her rickshaw from behind on Khan Jahan Ali road in the town at 9:00 pm.



#### Monday

- 4.30 Opening announcement
- Al-Guran
- Programme summary
- Documentary: Growing up
- Children
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Sports programme: Football
- 6.10 Pratyasa
- 6.50 Open University
- 7.15 Nazrul Songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Special programme: On Farakka Day
- 9.00 Ghor Baire
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Comedy series: Murphy Brown
- 11.00 Musical programme: Disco
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

### Nat'l Museum to preserve cultural heritage

The Bangladesh National Museum has taken up a programme to preserve the local heritage of each of the country's 64 districts, reports UNB. The programme is designed to enable the people, particularly the future generation, discern and understand their own culture and heritage.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum opened the experimental programme through a video and film show on Rajbari district at the National Museum auditorium yesterday afternoon.

Md Mokhlesur Rahman Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs addressed the function which was presided over by Director General of the National Museum Md Moslem Ali. Secretary of the Museum Md Didarul Ahsan also spoke.

Opening the programme, the State Minister said that it was an important task of the government to preserve and uphold the country's tradition and culture.

### Weather

#### Rains with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain and thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty and squally wind likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours.

Met office forecasts the weather may remain same at one or two places over Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions.

The day temperature is likely to remain unchanged. Yesterday's highest rainfall 16 mm was recorded at Tangail while the minimum 2 mm at Bogra. The second highest 14 mm was recorded at Srimongol.

The Sun sets today at 6.64 pm while rises tomorrow at 5.15 am.

### DU Alumni Association Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Dhaka University Alumni Association will be held on Friday, May 27, 1994 at 5:00 pm at the Planning and Development Academy auditorium at Babupara, Nilkhet. Election of executive committee members, besides other matters, will be held at the meeting.

The meeting will be followed by a cultural function and dinner. Professor Enajuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka is expected to grace the occasion as chief guest. Separate cards for the cultural function and dinner have to be obtained on payment. The rate is single Tk. 150.00 and couple Tk. 250. The following telephone numbers may be contacted for the purpose: 815119, 317366, 501329, 406633, 405021, 504797, 507627, 401100, 317035, 833204 & 882955.

All members of the Association and other interested old students of the university have been requested to attend.

Secretary General  
Dhaka University  
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