

Dhaka Day by Day

An Obsession with Streets

by Iftikhar A Chowdhury

Our peoples' deep-rooted love for streets is not unknown to anyone. Here people take to the street *en masse* for making themselves heard, wage a protest or demonstrate against almost anything and every thing under the sun. Historically, streets have always played a vital role in all our political struggles. Street processions had probably been one of the most powerful forms of democratic protest not in our country alone, but in almost all the countries of the world.

During the British and the Pakistani rule of our land, people took to the street to protest and fight against common and identified enemies. So, this form of protest then had a tremendous amount of strength encapsulated within, which eventually led to the dismantling of the foreign domination in our country. At first, the rallies and processions that took

imagination, which led some viewers into a mad drive for hero-worshipping. That people could come out *en masse* to protest the death sentence looming on a fictitious character of a TV drama is really the rarest of the rare incidents that take place only once in a blue moon.

The latest inclusion in this regard is the street protests staged in many cities of the country against FIFA's decision to expel the Argentine football legend Diego Maradona from the World Cup on drug charges. True, that Maradona has been a phenomenal name in world soccer for the last decade or so. He has also made football a little more popular than what it was before. "Surely, this is a rare quality of a sportsman who can revolutionise the sport itself. Diego is one of the gifted footballers the world has ever seen. But still, people over here seem to be doing a little in excess," says a foot-



place in streets were exclusively political in nature. But nowadays, in the changed circumstances, streets have become a venue for any kind of protest — be it political or cultural, national or international.

The Bangladeshi people, who are known for their instinct-driven mental make-up and their ever readiness to react on a whim — a national trait that can probably be only comparable to the typical Irish sensitivity, have always taken recourse to the street protests in an hour of desperation or frenzy. But lately, it seems that this 'street thing' has been stretched a little more than what is necessary or even decent.

Who could forget the frenzied viewers of a popular TV serial coming out in the street to protest the execution of the protagonist of the serial, Baker Bhai? An anti-social element was rapidly transformed into a hero of an enduring height by the sheer virtue of the playwright's

ball connoisseur who sees no point in such exaggeration as he fails to understand. "How can we expect that making a public protest from half way across the world, we can deliver our message to the FIFA officials? It's all very typical of the excesses that we have become habituated to." Now that the Argentine team is out of the tournament, the anger over Maradona's expulsion seemed to have mellowed down a little. But still, there are plenty who firmly believe that if the 'soccer maestro' was there, things would have been a whole lot different for Argentina.

As the city streets are increasingly being occupied for rallies and processions of lesser national importance or, in some cases, no importance at all, probably someday people will have to think of wind-gliding or hand-gliding as the only mode of transport from one place of the city to the other.



Visitors at an exhibition on driftwood by Ferdousi Priyabhashini which began at the Jojon art gallery in the city. — Star photo

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Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmad presiding over the senior officials meeting of the SAARC Finance and Planning Ministers Conference at a city hotel yesterday. — PID photo

Make 'health for all' programme a success: Tarique

Post and Telecommunications Minister Tarique Islam yesterday called for making the present government's 'health for all' programme a success through enhancing medicare facilities and increasing awareness about primary health care among the common people, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest the inaugural function of a non-government Medicine Bank at the Jessoro General Hospital premises.

Tarique Islam is the chief patron of the Medicine Bank.

The bank has been established under the financial assistance of local donors and common people. The medicine bank is the first of its kind in the country which has been established by the local people aiming at supplying required medicine free of cost to the destitute and helpless patients.

Presided over by civil surgeon of Jessoro Dr Md Amjad Hossain, the function was addressed by pourasava chairman Ali Reza Raju, Secretary of the Medicine Bank Nargis Begum, Deputy Commissioner Bhuyan Rafiuddin and President of BMA Jessoro branch Dr Kazi Rabiu Haque.

Highlighting on the programme initiated by the government on health sector, Tarique Islam called upon the affluent section of society to extend their helping hands for establishing such voluntary establishments for the welfare of the poor people.

Earlier, the minister formally inaugurated the Medicine Bank.

Death anniversary of Shamsuddin

The third anniversary of death of prominent Awami League leader and ex-MP Advocate Shamsuddin Mollah will be held on July 10, reports BSS.

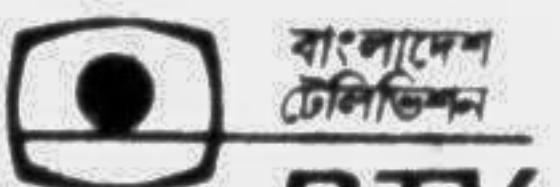
A close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman, late Shamsuddin Molla was one of the leading organisers of liberation struggle and a member of Bangladesh Constitution Framing Committee.

Awami League and Shamsuddin Molla Smriti Sangsad have planned a three-day programme to observe the anniversary at the deceased's home district Faridpur and village home at Banga.

The Smriti Sangsad has arranged a memorial meeting at Kabi Jashimuddin Hall at Faridpur town today at 4 pm. Awami League presidium members Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP and Abdur Razzak MP, Awami League advisory committee members and language movement activist Advocate Gazizul Haq and other central leaders of the party will take part in the meeting.

Offering of fateha, placing of wreaths at the graveyard of the deceased, Quran khwani and milad mahfil will be held at the Faridpur town residence of late Mollah on July 10.

Besides, Banga Thana unit of Awami League will hold a discussion meeting and milad mahfil at the organisation's office premises on July 11.



BTV

Saturday

- 4:30 Opening announcement
- 4:45 Al Quran
- Programme summary
- Children's programme
- Moner Katha
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Musical Programme
- Kidsongs
- Tarunava
- Population Programme
- Angikar
- Banshkar
- 7:25 Comedy series Major Dad
- News in Bangla
- Matti O Manush
- 9:00
- 10:00 Live telecast of World Cup football: Italy vs Spain
- Holland vs Brazil
- 10:30

What's on today . . .

Zahir Raihan Film Society: The film 'Goopy Gain Bagha Bain' directed by Satyajit Ray will be screened. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium. Time: 6 pm.

Seminar: On "Fatawabazi: Perspective-state, religion, society and politics" organised by Bangladesh Chhatra Union will be held. Venue: The auditorium of Dhaka University Teacher Students' Centre. Time: 4:30 pm.

C'wealth Student and Youth Organisation: The general meeting of the central executive committee will be held. Venue: TSC, Dhaka University. Time: 5 pm.

Bangladesh-Australia Students' Assoc: An emergency meeting of executive committee and general members will be held. Venue: TSC, Dhaka University. Time: 5 pm.

Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka: The regular weekly meeting and first club assembly will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5:30 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Moderately heavy falls are likely at places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today. reports UNB.

Met office says light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

Giving outlook for the subsequent two days the weather office predicted that weather is likely to improve.

In its extended outlook for another five days the Met office forecast that rainfall activity may increase at the end period.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

Country's highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and Sylhet while the lowest 23.6 degrees at Rangamati yesterday.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6:50 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5:18 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity of some major cities recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	31.9	26	76	79
Chittagong	32	24.6	73	85
Rajshahi	32.6	25.9	85	75
Khulna	32.5	26	85	88
Barisal	31	24.4	89	88
Sylhet	33.6	26	74	68
Dinajpur	33.6	—	—	66
Cox's Bazar	31.4	24	72	90

DU media centre to be set up by November

By Masud Arif

The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of the Dhaka University is going to install a Tk 1.2 crore media centre by November this year to familiarise the students with latest print and audio-visual media equipment.

"This will add a new dimension in the study of mass communication and journalism in the country," the department Chairman Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique said while talking to this correspondent.

The Asia Foundation and the USAID have jointly funded about Tk 72 lakh while the rest will be provided by the Bangladesh government.

The department chairman hoped that the students may begin using the centre from January next year.

"It is actually a communications laboratory in which the students will gain practical experience in print and electronic journalism," Dr Siddique said adding that the laboratory would have three units — desk top publishing unit, audio-visual unit and still photography and dark room unit.

The media centre will help the students, specially in post graduate level

to get technical training in editing, advertisement, mass communication, communication planning, video production etc.

The department chairman further added that they were thinking of introducing short courses on DTP, video produc-

tion and others for the general public in future so that the media centre could also provide training facilities for the interested individuals.

The laboratory will have desk top computers with multi-media use options, power PCs with colour display monitors, video graphics equipments, video editing console, portable colour video monitors, video editing panels, digital special effects, still camera with all other accessories, photo printing and dark room equipment and related books.

Besides, the university authorities have sanctioned a room in the Lecture Theatre building for installing the equipment.

Dr Siddique, however, felt that the space given initially was not enough for this laboratory. He added that the department had sought more space from the university authorities.

Jadumia's birth anniversary today

The 70th birth anniversary of Moshiur Rahman (Jadumia), a veteran political leader of progressive democratic movement, will be observed today in the city, reports BSS.

The Moshiur Trust has organised a day-long programme. Moshiur Trust Award '94 will be distributed for contributions in politics and social services at the Press Club

গার্মেন্টস মালিকদের জন্য সুখবর সুখবর

আমরা অত্যন্ত আনন্দের সাথে জানাচ্ছি যে, আমেরিকা থেকে সব আমদানীকৃত অত্যাধিক মেশিন বারা গার্মেন্টস লিভের অপরিহার্য রিবন-লেবেল ফেটিক-টেইপ-লেপোরেল প্রজ্ঞতা বালোকানে সর্ব প্রথম তুকনো কালি (ক্লেল) বারা আমেরিকা হাপালি বারা আমেরিকার লাভ এসেসিসিসেন কর্তৃত অনুমতি! আমেরিকা প্রথম তুকনো কালি বারা এবং কালিলেহ শক্তিকর ১০০ টাক্স নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও অভ্যন্তর কর সময়ে সুন্দর ছাপা রিচার্ট দিচ্ছি।

সেভেন এক্সটেন্ড সিল্ক

বাড়ি নং ১৯, রোড নং ৮, ধানমন্ডি আ/এ, ঢাকা-১২০৫

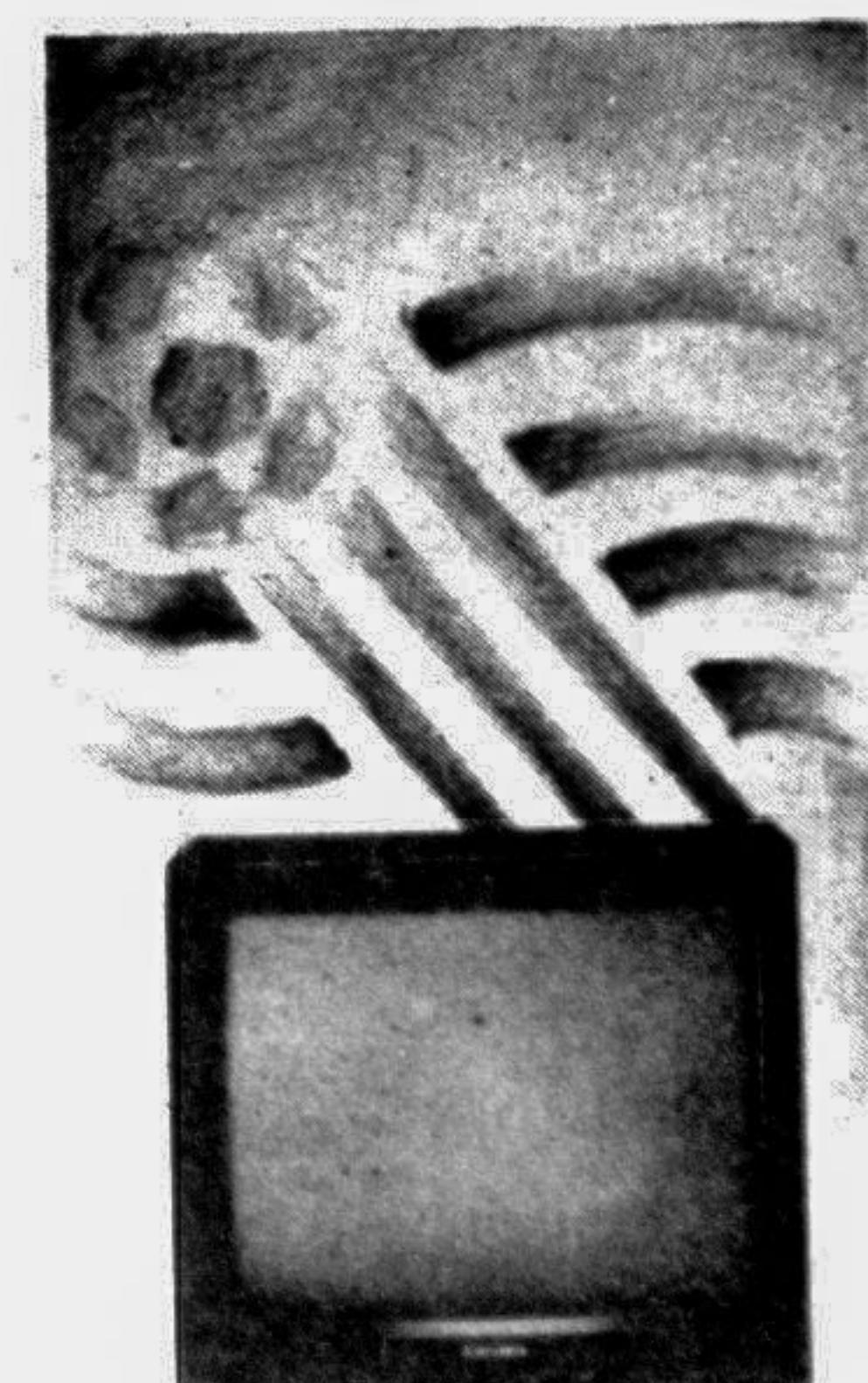
WE REMEMBER



WITH FOND MEMORIES,
OUR MOTHER,
AYESHA AZIZ, WHO LEFT
US FOREVER ON
9TH JULY, 1985
MAY HER SOUL REST IN
ETERNAL PEACE.

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