

Dhaka Day by Day

A Feverish Grip

by Iftikhar A Choudhury

While the World Cup football fever swept the entire length and breadth of this country, yet another ailment of the same generic name — but one not just in its figurative meaning — of practical nature, meaning influenza, made its unwelcome visitation. Almost all the households of the country barring only a lucky few have to be an unwilling host to this disease. Although in the last few days, like the football fever, this insistent visitor has also signalled for its departure, still one never knows when it will, without notice, make its visitation. So, be on your guard.

This short-living and seemingly innocent disease usually makes its grand entrance during the time of climatic changes. This year it has come in the months of late May-July, when the weather here seems to be of a very whimsical nature. Usually this time around an excessively hot and humid day is followed by a rainy afternoon or the vice versa. This kind of erratic weather pattern is the breeding ground of influenza.

One fine morning you go to your workplace with a radiant and happy face, then you suddenly don't seem to feel right. You have a terrible headache, you feel the temperature of your body rising, your limb-joints aching and you have a bad taste in your mouth. At last you return home with a sick and sullen face and drop down in your bed and by then you probably realise that you have been struck down with flu and you have to stay home and in bed for atleast three to four days and sometimes even

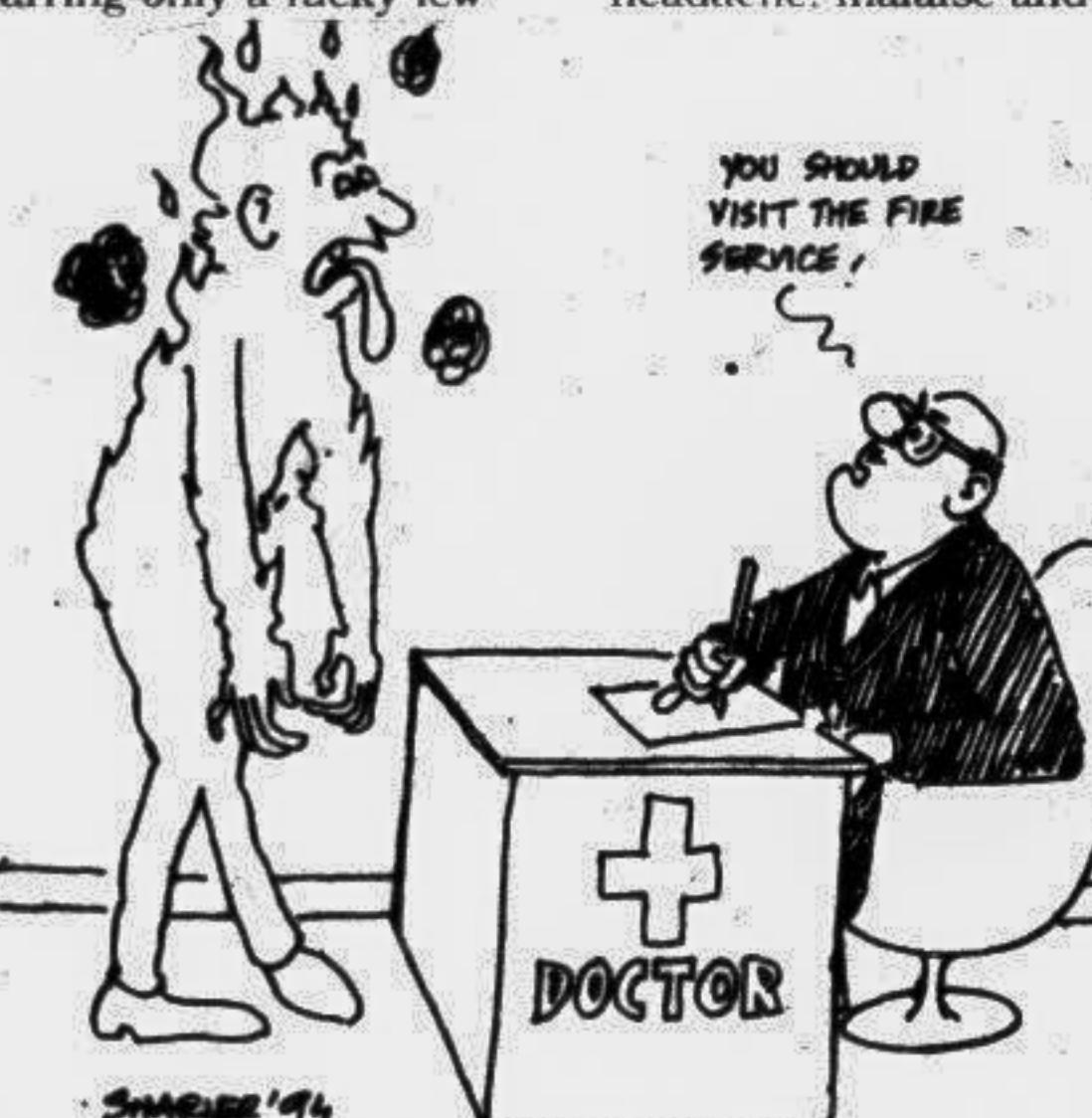
from a week to 10 days. "And believe me, those days are terribly hard to pass," comments one sufferer.

According to the medical jargon, "Influenza is a specific viral respiratory disease characterised by fever, common cold, cough, headache, malaise and inflammatory mucous

membranes. It is a highly contagious viral infection which may turn into an epidemic within a matter of weeks. Usually, there are two types of influenza virus, A and B. There is a 24-28 hour incubation period. Influenza A and B take their grip on the human physique suddenly with a chillness and fever upto 102 to 104°F developing within a short time span of 24 hours or even less, accompanied by severe cough and acute body-ache etc.

Usually after 2-4 days these acute symptoms rapidly subside. The fever may subside after 5-7 days, leaving the human body still terribly weak. This results in sweating, fatigue for days on end, even weeks. But severe cases may cause prostration, haemorrhage, pneumonia and sometimes even death.

The problem with diseases of this sort, is that people think that you are just suffering from a simple fever and they expect you to continue all the routine works. If you are struck down with influenza, you cannot just keep on lying in your bed and take rest, which is quite essential and probably the only healer for this demon of a disease," commented one, who after ten days of suffering from the disease is yet to overcome its hangover.



Newly-appointed Ambassador of the Philippines to Bangladesh Jose Escano Caingasan called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Filipino envoy for holding jt economic commission meet

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed the hope that the country's relations with the Philippines, particularly in the field of trade and commerce, would continue to expand, reports UNB.

She was talking to the newly-designated Philippine Ambassador to Bangladesh, Jose Escano Caingasan, when he called on the Prime Minister at her office in the afternoon.

Pointing at the present government's liberal industrial policy, Begum Zia said there was an ample scope of joint-venture industries, specially in jute and textile sectors.

The Ambassador stressed the need for holding a meeting of Bangladesh-Philippine Joint Economic Commission this year, which he said, will help accelerate the growth of economic ties between the two developing countries.

Mentioning the unflinching commitment of the peoples of the two countries to democracy, Caingasan said both had passed through an identical struggle against autocratic rule in establishing democratic process.

He lauded BNP government's various pro-people programmes aimed at socio-economic emancipation of common man.

New orphanage opens

Japanese philanthropist Motoe Hayakawa inaugurated an orphanage, "Sakura Family Home" in the city yesterday. Reports UNB.

The president of the Japan-Bangladesh Women Cultural Exchange Programme, who arrived here on a week-long visit Friday night, was leading a 15-member delegation.

During her stay here, she will visit different projects on women upliftment.

The new Filipino envoy conveyed greetings from President Fidel Ramos to Begum Zia.

The Prime Minister also, through the Ambassador, extended greetings to the people and government of the Philippines, particularly to Corazon Aquino and President Ramos, for their effort to institutionalise democracy.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdur Mannan chaired the meeting held at the cabinet room of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The meeting briefly discussed matters regarding the development oriented projects of these organisations.

It elaborately discussed various programmes of the tourism month-94.

JS body on Tourism meets

The 29th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism reviewed the activities of different organisations of the Ministry, reports UNB.

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'Country on threshold of achieving food autarky'

Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali yesterday reaffirmed that there was adequate stock of foodgrains in the godowns to meet future requirements and the country was on the threshold of achieving food autarky, reports UNB.

Engineering and Technology (BUEET) presented the key-note paper.

Prof Khabirul Haque Chowdhury recommended a balanced and coordinated schedule of freight rates for foodgrains movement through waterways in order to remove anomalies and lessen present cost being borne by government in this sector.

Presided over by Food Secretary Islam Uddin Malik, the day-long seminar was participated, among others, by Nur-i-Alam, MP, Mamzuddin Ahmed, Director General and A K M Nurul Afsar, Additional Director General, Directorate of Food.

Red Crescent's relief programme for Chakma returnees

The Bangladeshi Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has started relief operation to be carried on over six months for the benefit of the Chakma returnees to the hill districts from the Indian camps, reports BSS.

According to a BDRCS press release, under the relief programme which began Friday, 752 families would get the relief goods for six months at the rate of two kilograms of salt, two litres of edible oil and four kilograms of pulses per family every month.

The BDRCS said the relief goods are being supplied by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS) and the operation is being conducted jointly by the IFRCS and the BDRCS.

Training for JMBA personnel begins

A three-week training programme on environmental management began at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) for the key personnel of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) yesterday, reports BSS.

The programme is aimed at implementing the environmental management action plan and overcoming a number of engineering challenges at the time of completion of the single largest bridge project in the country.

Inaugurating the training programme, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed said, the JMBA project profile was made with utmost caution and in consonance with the environment policy of the country and that of the development partners so that the surrounding environment does not suffer the consequence of the project.

The minister said environmental issues like the probable siltation at the northern end of the river Dhaleswari, decline in fish growth, earth-surface and sub-soil water, adverse effect on the existing flora and fauna and rehabilitation of displaced people got well throughout consideration of eminent experts at the time of taking the environment management action plan.

He said in line with the government's commitment, the training programme was organised to execute the plan by a number of trained, skilled and well conversant people in the field. Oli Ahmed, who is also Chairman of Jamuna bridge project, said "that is why an environment unit is incorporated with JMBA-project."

Presided over by the Vice Chancellor of BUET Dr M. Shahjahan, the programme jointly organised by the environment unit of JMBA and the Civil Engineering Department of BUET, was also addressed by JMBA executive director Muhammad Ali, course coordinator Dr M. Firoze Ahmed, Chairman of Civil Engineering Department Dr A M M Shafullah and Dr M Rafiqur Rahman, a faculty member.

BTV Sunday

4:30 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
4:45 Educational programme: Shiksha Dhiksha
5:10 News in Bangla
5:20 Cartoon: Tom and Jerry Kids Show
5:40 Sports programme
6:30 Health programme: Maader Jannya
7:00 Open University
7:25 Tagore songs
8:00 News in Bangla Magazine Programme: Absor
9:00 Drama series: Tipu Sultan
10:00 News in English
10:30 Musical programme: Surer Bhubane
11:30 Khabar/The News
11:45 Closing

What's on today....

Photo Exhibition on Jahanara Imam:

Ektaturer Jatre organises a photographic exhibition in memory of late Jahanara Imam. Poet Sulia Kamal will inaugurate. Venue: Fine Arts Instt gallery. DU. Time: 5 pm.

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad: Publication ceremony of the research study on 'Bangladesh: Greenhouse Effect and Climate Change' will be held. The research study was conducted by the BUP in Cooperation with Centre for Environmental and Resource Studies (CEARS), University of Waikato, New Zealand and Climate Research Unit (CRU) University of East Anglia, UK. Speakers: Syed A M M Wahed, Dr Ainun Nishat, Doris Capistrano, Dr H L Potter. Venue: Conference room of NAEM. Time: 4:30 pm.

Seminar: On SAPTA, jointly organised by FBCCI and FNST of Germany. Chief guest: Minister for Commerce, M Shamsul Islam. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 10 am.

Arganta Film Society: A week-long film session will be held on the occasion of the society's 18th founding anniversary. Inaugural session will be marked by discussion. Chief guest: Prof Anisuzzaman. Film: Ghare Baire. Venue: Indian Information Centre auditorium, Road 2, Dhamondi. Time: 5:30 pm.

Yusuf Memorial Trust: Will distribute scholarship to the meritorious students from greater Kushia district who have passed SSC and HSC exams. Venue: National Press Club. VIP lounge. Time: 11:30 am.

Bandhan: will arrange a member collecting drive. Guests: DCC Mayor, Mohammad Hanif, National Professor Dr Nurul Islam and UNB Chairman Amanullah Khan. Venue: Nager Bhaban. Time: 1 pm.

Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka: Regular weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 5:30 pm.

DAB: A tree plantation and discussion programme, organised by the Mohakhali complex branch, will be held. Chief guest: Minister for Environment and Forest, Colonel (Rtd) Akbar Hossain. Venue: Nipson auditorium. Time: 1 pm.

Dhaka Commerce College: The fifth founding anniversary, a prize-giving ceremony and a farewell to the outgoing students of the Dhaka Commerce College will be held. Chief guest: Md Rafiqul Islam Mia, Minister for Works. Prof Dr Shahid Uddin will preside. Venue: College premises at Section 3, Avenue-3, Haji Road, Mirpur. Time: 9:30 am.

Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka: Regular weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Hotel Sundarban. Time: 5:15 pm.

Rainbow Film Society: Organises a seminar on Rabindranath and Film. A documentary on Rabindranath will also be screened. Venue: GCI auditorium. Time: 6 pm.

Seminar: On the 'Freedom of Speech and Religious Sentiment', organised by the Centre for Human Rights. Dr M Ershadul Bari, Dean of the Faculty of Law, DU will present the key-note paper. Justice Ruhul Islam will preside. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 5 pm.

Weather

Heavy falls likely

Moderately heavy falls are likely at places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

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

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

Meantime, Chandpur experienced the highest 31 mm rain during the last 12 hours till 6 pm yesterday.

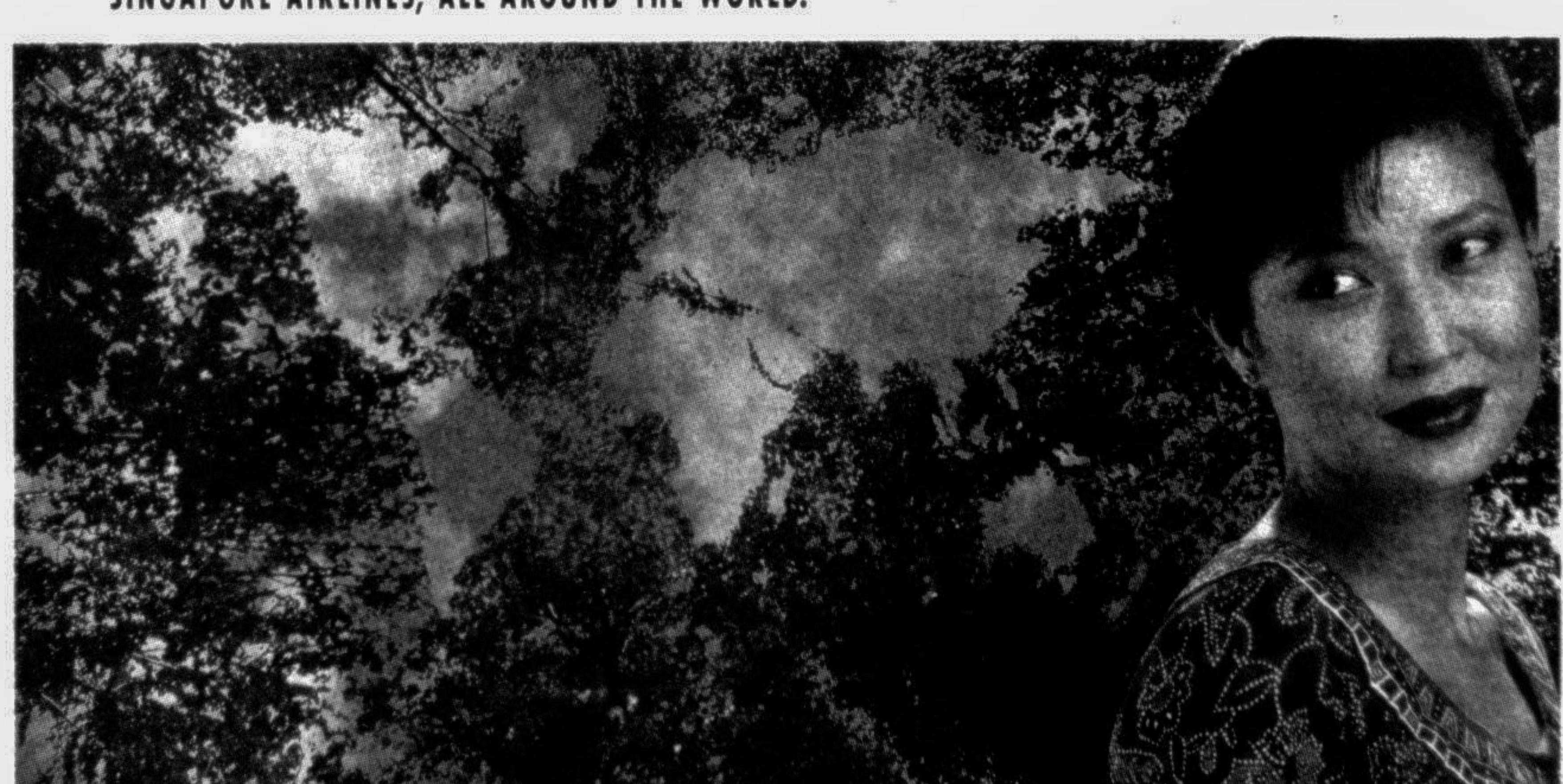
Country's highest temperature 33.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 23.2 degrees at Hatiya, yesterday.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6:46 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5:24 am.

The maximum and minimum temperature and humidity in some major cities/towns recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.3	26.2	86	82
Chittagong	29.8	25.3	86	83
Rajshahi	33.8	26.7	86	78
Khulna	32.8	27.0	85	81
Barisal	30.0	25.2	92	88
Sylhet	33.0	25.0	83	82
Dinajpur	33.5	26.4	81	78

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