

Dhaka Day by Day

The Invading Little Hordes

by Fayza Haq

"I was reading in the small hours of night, as is my habit, thanks to insomnia, and lo and behold, what enters my half-lit room! A little rat that darts under the bed in between the old suitcases, and did I feel my skin crawl," said a lady in Dhanmondi. She has been putting poisoned baits for the rats in the garden but unfortunately it resulted in the death of her pet dog. As she is fond of cats and dogs, her garden is infested with black and brown rodents.

Rats are such a nuisance that someone living in Tikatully had his entire living room cushions chewed up by rats and had to spend Tk 12,000 in renovating them. With the money he spent in setting up his home again, he means that he could have bought himself a new cane set.

Cockroaches are another pest in the city that one cannot easily get rid of, no matter how much precaution one takes. They leap across the saucer full of water and get into the sugar pot. They will get their ugly legs and fingers into any dish, plate or cup left in the kitchen, pantry, dining room or any other place in the house.

closed and surrounded by water. These same ants eat up the leaves, flowers and fruits in the garden, along with the crows, bats, and monkeys too. If you happen to live in Old Dhaka.

Not only are your sweets and savouries under attack by the domestic pests but also your clothes and books. You dare not leave your clothes around, specially if they are soiled, for fear of finding large holes in them the next day.

White ants are another demon for attacking doors, windows, furniture and books. Despite all the pesticides being sold regularly in the Dhaka markets and the spraying of insecticides by the Dhaka Municipality authorities, and the use of kerosene, a gentleman in Purana Paltan complains of how his lifetime's collection of books were reduced to a heap of scrap by termites. Another lady leaving for USA has been delayed because the doors and windows of her property have been reduced to chips and she must stay back to renovate her house in Hatkhola before she migrates for greener pastures.

"In summer life is intolerable in the kitchen



A different kind of invasion

"These cockroaches are such a menace that they even get into the meatsafe and refrigerator. They crawl under the lids of the bowls in some unorthodox way, and get into the chopped fruit, meat, and any other dish. Covering bread or 'samosas' and other left overs from the day in layers of paper and polythene is not enough. If you get up at midnight and if by some chance you have not covered the remaining rice or curry or even the 'achar' securely in compact boxes, you will have these wretched insects having a feast on them. As for the vegetables and fruit, although they have a hard skin around them yet you feel revolted to see the pests licking and crawling through the food you will consume the next day. If by any chance you leave an opened half emptied bottle of 'coke' or ketchup soon these detestable pests will be swimming in it," remarks a lady living in Mohakhali.

Ants, specially red ants, can be a frightful nuisance too. A young woman in Mogbazar took out her freshly baked birthday fruit cake from the oven to cool and went off for her 'asaf' prayers. When she returned, she found the cake completely covered with red ants. She had to hurriedly place the cake on top of a covered 'dekchi' of hot water to get rid of the red menace.

These red ants, along with black ones will get into anything sweet, unless it is carefully

and the dining room because of the flies. The unbearable heat and sudden showers make life difficult during the hot season," comments one who has been forced to keep a fly swatter in her Naya Paltan office.

Similarly mosquitoes can be bothersome, specially at night, unless you use anti-mosquito electric tablets, coils or a cumbersome mosquito net. "I am often bitten by mosquitoes as I wear a short night-dress while reading before going to bed. Now gnats of a type attack me in my office, even though I wear billowy 'shalwars'. Dhaka is not Male but sometimes experiences with insects are similar. I must constantly dust my rooms at home or the spiders cover them up with cobwebs as if it were Miss Havisham's house. Despite the precautions I take I dread the insects at night as if they were predators in a jungle," says a young woman in Banani.

Lizards are there to rid us of insects but as they too dart about the walls, ceilings and floors, life for the Dhakaites is slightly unpleasant by night. Sure, they do not look like iguanas but like rats, mice and other creeping creatures, they are a positive nuisance.

Despite the unpleasantness of pests in the city, and the fact that it is much more dirty than what it was say three decades back, it is better than some of the other cities of the subcontinent.



A visitor with a child at the opening day, yesterday, of the week-long mobile photo show entitled 'family' at Shilpakala Academy gallery. — Star photo

Brunei to recruit more Bangladeshi workers

Sultan Hassan Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam has praised the Bangladeshi professionals for their contribution to the development of his country, according to a message received yesterday in Dhaka, reports UNB.

He has also assured that the process for recruiting more Bangladeshis for working in his country would continue.

The Sultan's assurance came when Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, who was on a his visit to Brunei, called on him at the Royal Palace "Nurul Iman" on Monday.

About 6,000 Bangladeshi professionals including doctors and engineers are now working in the tiny oil-rich state.

During the meeting that lasted for an hour, the foreign minister apprised the Sultan of the development activities in Bangladesh, with special emphasis on economic reforms, privatisation policy and incentives to foreign investors.

The foreign minister

handed over a letter of invitation from President Abdur Rahman Biswas to the Sultan to visit Bangladesh. The Brunei monarch accepted the invitation and expressed his desire to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.

Earlier, Mostafiz also held formal talks with his Brunei counterpart Prince Muhammed Bolkiah, covering all aspects of the bilateral matters of mutual interest.

The two ministers also agreed to establish diplomatic representation at each others capital and exchange visits at ministerial and official levels.

Mostafiz also held separate meetings with the Brunei ministers of education, industries and primary resources.

Brunei leaders have expressed interest in recruiting teachers from Bangladesh and exploring possibilities of investment in Bangladesh. They also showed interest in importing rice and jute goods from Bangladesh.

Pilgrim Fund Board mooted

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said that creation of a Pilgrim Fund Board is under active consideration of the government and it will benefit the people intending to perform Hajj, reports UNB.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas told this to a nine-member delegation of central leaders of Tahfije Haramain Parishad when they called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

A site has already been selected at Ashkona near Zia International Airport for building a permanent Hajj camp there, he said.

Biswas said present government has been trying to improve further the facilities provided to the Bangladeshi Hajjers during the Hajj in Holy Mecca and Medina.

Terming Hajj one of the most important pillars of

Islam, the President said despite certain constraints all possible arrangements are being made to facilitate performance of Hajj by the pilgrims from Bangladesh.

Earlier the delegation led by Maulana Sadek Ahmed Siddique, President of the Parishad in a memorandum put forward several demands including improvement of the facilities provided to the intending hajees in Bangladesh and in Saudi Arabia and sending them by ship.

Among others Maulana Mostafa Al Hussaini, Maulana Mizanur Rahman Zuktibadi, Al-Hajj Mohammad Wazirullah, Maulana Abdur Rahim, Maulana Abdul Huq Faridi, Al-Hajj Mohammad Solaiman, Hafez Mohammad Abul Bashar and Qari Muhammad Akilul Halimi Miah were present.

Photo show 'family' opens

A week-long mobile photo exhibition on the theme "family" began at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday under joint auspices of the academy and Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU), reports BSS.

Education Minister Jamieuddin Sircar inaugurated the show.

Speaking on the occasion the education minister said, "united family concept in Bangladesh is a part of our culture and homogeneous character of our nation which helps us to survive at the time of natural calamities".

He said the world had now become a family under the banner of the United Nations and UNESCO was making all-out efforts for flourishing of the cultural heritages of different countries.

Presided over by Director-General of the academy, Mobarak Hossain Khan, the function was addressed by secretary of BNCU S M Saifuddin Ahmed and Alam Beg.

Indonesian festival

The Indonesian embassy has drawn up various programmes on the occasion of its 49th anniversary of the proclamation of independence, reports BSS.

A grand reception-cum-cultural performance will be held at Sonargaon Hotel today.

To mark the occasion an Indonesian cultural evening featuring songs, dances and fashion show will be held at the Osmany Memorial Hall in the city.

Nazmul Huda, Minister for Information will inaugurate the cultural evening.

Prof Jahan-Ara Begum, State Minister for Cultural Affairs and Hadi Wayarabi Alhadar, Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh will present as special guests.

Rotary Scholarship

Rotary Club of Dhaka invites applications for Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship for academic year 1995-96, one in California State University Sacramento or Mc George School of Law and One at Hiroshima University, Japan. The applicants must have the following qualifications:

- A Bangladeshi citizen
- A degree from recognize University or if employed must have at least two years working experience.

Apply with bio-data, a passport size photographs and contact telephone number within 23rd August, 1994 to Rotary Club of Dhaka, C/o, Star, House No. 48-C, Road No. 11, Banani, Dhaka-1213. Rotarians, their family members and relations are not eligible for that Scholarship.

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WANTED

THE AGA KHAN SCHOOL invites applications from experienced Teachers to teach Mathematics, English, Commerce and Accounting up to the "A" level program. In addition to the academic qualifications, candidates must speak fluent English.

Interested applicants may either contact the Principal, Aga Khan School, Plot No. 3, Road No. 6/A, Sector 4, Uttara, Dhaka. Phone : 891598 and 891710 or send applications accompanied by a detailed Biodata to P.O. Box No. 2106, Ramna, Dhaka.

The last date for receiving applications is 30th August, 1994.

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NOTICE

With the installation of a new PABX system in the Dhaka Stock Exchange, we are pleased to notify the new phone numbers and particulars for the information of all concerned:

New PABX	868156-62
Existing Nos.	231935
	239118
	239882
Fax No.	880-2-867552
Telex	632150 DSE BJ

ABUL MANSUR AHMED

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

DHAKA STOCK EXCHANGE

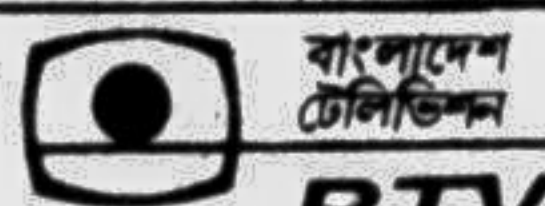
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DHAKA

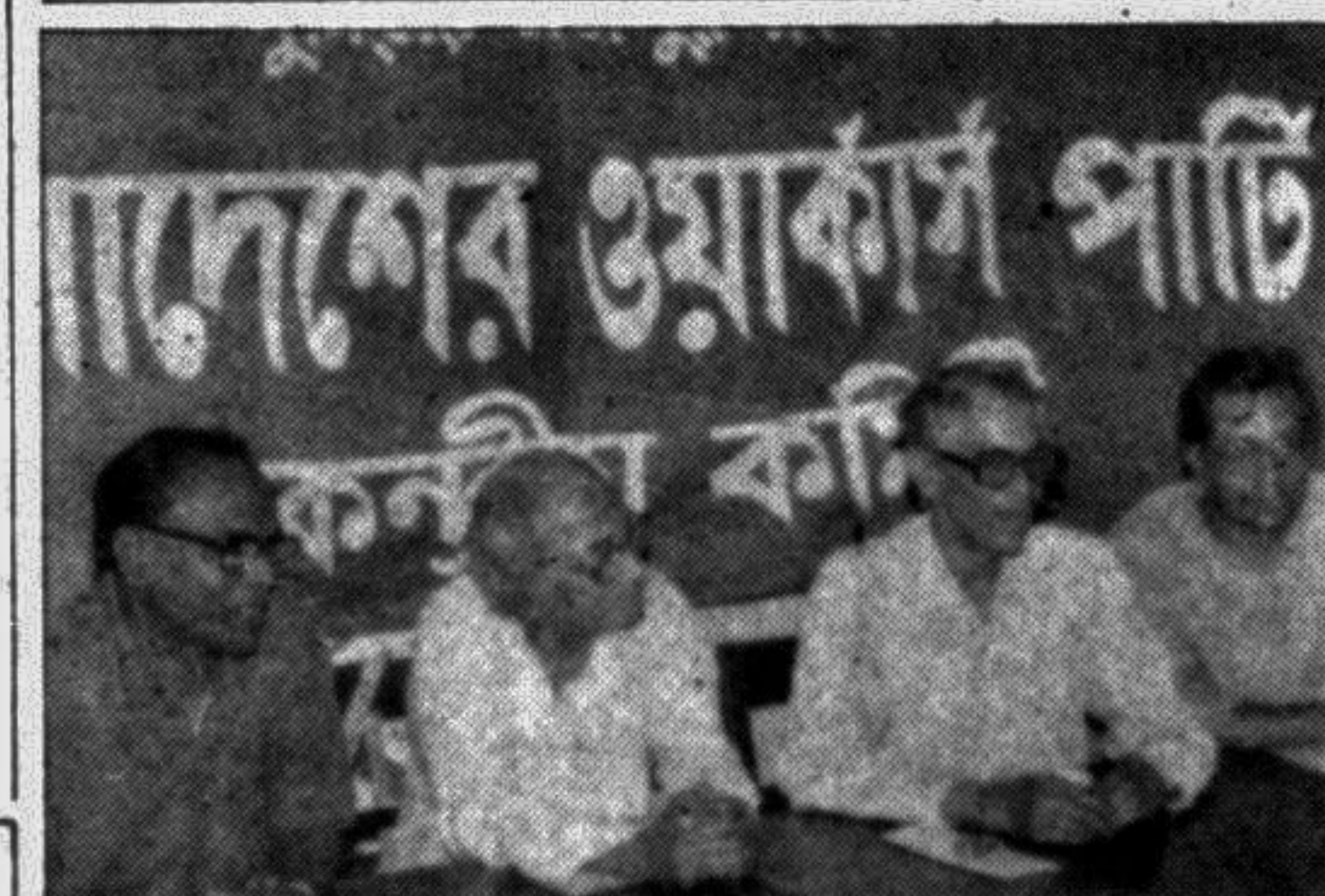


Participants at the opening day, yesterday, of a debate fair held at the Public Library auditorium in the city. The two-day fair is being held under the aegis of the Association of Debate Professionals (ADP). — Star photo



Wednesday

4:30	Opening announcement
4:45	Sports programme
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	Amra Nutun
6:00	Bonophul: Programme by tribal artists
7:00	Open University
7:25	Tagore songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Writter Tale Tale: Dance programme
9:00	Film show: Equalizer
10:00	News in English
10:30	Prottyashar Alo: Magazine on Population
11:30	Khabar/The News



The Workers' Party central committee held a press conference at party office in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Occasional moderate rain or thundershower is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy falls at places till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says temporary light to moderate rain or thundershower may occur at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

Day temperature is likely to fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and may remain nearly unchanged over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

Country's highest temperature 35.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and the lowest 24.3 degrees at Rangamati.

Sun sets today at 6:30 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5:35 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures, humidity and rainfall recorded in some major cities/ towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity percentage	Rainfall in last 24 hrs in mm
	Max	Min	9 am 6 pm
Dhaka	32.4	24.6	76 72
Chittagong	32.6	25.2	75 78
Rajshahi	34.2	24.6	78
Khulna	32.8	25.6	83 73
Barisal	31.6	25.6	82 82
Sylhet	34.5	26.8	71 66
Cox's Bazar	31.3	24.4	74 86
Dinajpur	35.8	26.2	75 66



Biman Bhaban, Motijheel, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Cable: Airbangla. Tlx: 642649 DABG BJ
Phones: 240151, 240161, 240171, 240181-10 Lines, Fax: 880-2-833005

Tender Notice No: DACPM/83/94 Purchase of Two Brand New AIRBUS A310-300 Aircraft

- Bangladesh Biman Corporation invites offers for purchase of two Brand New AIRBUS A310-300 Aircraft of 164 Tons MTOW with identical specifications as given in the Tender Schedule, to be delivered in 2-class configuration in Bangladesh Biman's livery at the earliest.
- The aircraft will be purchased on cash payment as per terms and conditions specified in the schedule.
- The offer should be submitted in two separate sealed envelopes, one providing detailed technical specifications and another providing the financial offer, addressed to the Director, Project & Planning, Bangladesh Biman, 109 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh latest by 1200 hours BST (0600 hours UTC) on or before 1st October, 1994 and same shall be opened immediately after the closing time in the presence of the bidders, if any. The two envelopes should be clearly marked "Technical Specifications" and "Financial Offer" respectively. Open offer by fax, telex, offer for a single aircraft will not be entertained. Offers or Part's of offers received at a later date or time through mail or any other means of communications shall not be considered irrespective of the reasons thereof.
- The offers shall have to remain valid for at least 120 (one hundred and twenty) days from the date of opening the tender.
- Tender schedule containing detailed specifications and terms and conditions shall be available at all Biman overseas offices. It can also be obtained from the office of the General Manager Planning, Biman Head Office, Dhaka on any working day between 1000-1400 hours BST. Clarification, if any, may be sought from the General Manager Planning, Bangladesh Biman, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh Phone: (880-2) 236495, 240151/2415, Sita-DACPM/83, Fax: (8802) 867584 before the submission of tenders.
- Bangladesh Biman Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offer(s) wholly or partly at any time and/or stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and no claim shall be acceptable in this respect.

M Mahmoodur Rahman
Director Project & Planning

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