

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Birds of the Same Feather Flock Together

by Shamsad Mortuza

"de-la-grande Mephistopheles, Yak. Yak!", cried out Tenida, sitting at the Chatterjee's.

"What on earth is that?"

"French, my dear. French! This won't get inside your head full of dried dung." Two strong taps on my skull immediately made the position of the excreta obvious.

Any discerning reader of Narayan Gangapaddhya will agree that the cosy chit-chat of Tenida says it all: the fun and the warmth of the wonder years. The fun of flocking together and stealing away time simply by doing nothing or by making hills out of moleholes. As a matter of fact, such gossip has become our national pastime, albeit in the absence of proper time and place.

For the teenagers, however, such gossip has an added flavour of fantasy. They, therefore, prefer to hang around places where the sites can serve their sight. Fast-food shops seem to be an obvious choice.

These mushrooming eat-and-run shops are of course metropolitan phenomena, and teens gathering their consequent atrophy. No wonder, everyday, especially in the afternoon, you will find scores of teenagers pouring in the fast food shops. And it is really good to see our would-be generations hovering on the edge of the westernized culture. It is not refreshing to find them in their best attire — perfectly in tune with the current vogue (a desperate aping of their alien role models projected by the sky invaders) — sitting/standing/leaning in and out of these shops! Some of them even take all the troubles to bring out their snacks and drinks to share the (view) with those who cannot dare/spare to enter the shops. Or, even if one does, one is sure to be scrutinized by strangers-will-be-prosecuted look.

Well, the presence of girls can make a whole lot of difference. They can both provoke a mien milieu and invoke the Darwinian ancestors in our teen-men.

It would be, however, an extreme statement to say that all the fast food shops are busy like these. Some of the shops at Bally Road, in particular, have already earned the fame of a teen haven. Here, youngsters from all corners of the city, sit, eat, gossip, and sip from their papery glasses and smoke from their fiery sticks. They come to this resort as soon as the closing hours of the nearby girls' schools and colleges approach and continue to stay long after the rise of the sodium light. With theatres, schools, colleges and saree shops in the locality, this place is bound to be busy, and the teens' choice is understandable. Or is there something else? More than 90 per cent of the boys

who come here, actually come for Phensidyl," says one youngman, familiar with this sort of gathering. "Even we, those who do not take Phensidyl, are branded as khore (abusers) just because we hang around with them, he instantly added to distinct us from them."

Surely, fast food shops have nothing to do with 'dile,' the streetname of phensidyl — a hallucinogenic cough syrup containing opium in the form of codeine. But it can be easily procured from you-know-where, and then be replaced in the carbonate drinks paper glasses. A simple chemistry to deceive the passers-by. Brilliant! With such ingenuity, our future is bound to be bright! G-7, just you wait, here we come. O amara Bangla Maga...



"Have you seen any fight in the area in the last two years," the younger brother of my locality anchored the wild horse. I nodded negatively. "Funny think about phensidyl is, it sips the life out of you. It befuddles your thoughts and you do not feel like doing anything. Even if one tries to start a fight in intoxicated state, others intervene." Oh God! what an inglorious truce. I would rather like to see them fight than die in vegetable state. Why do not they take part in sports. I remember! there is no fields. Why do not they take part in cultural activities? I see! There is no culture — at least they are not sure of it (thanks to our political leaders!).

"Usually, it is the rich kids who sponsor these syrups and earn a fleet of fawning fans and underlings," he added. "They come and talk about their frustration, the meaninglessness of riches while the rest sympathize."

Why do the shopowners permit these youngmen to gossip near their business place? "They care for their huge glass panes." Everything sounds so simple for these freshly graduated youngman.

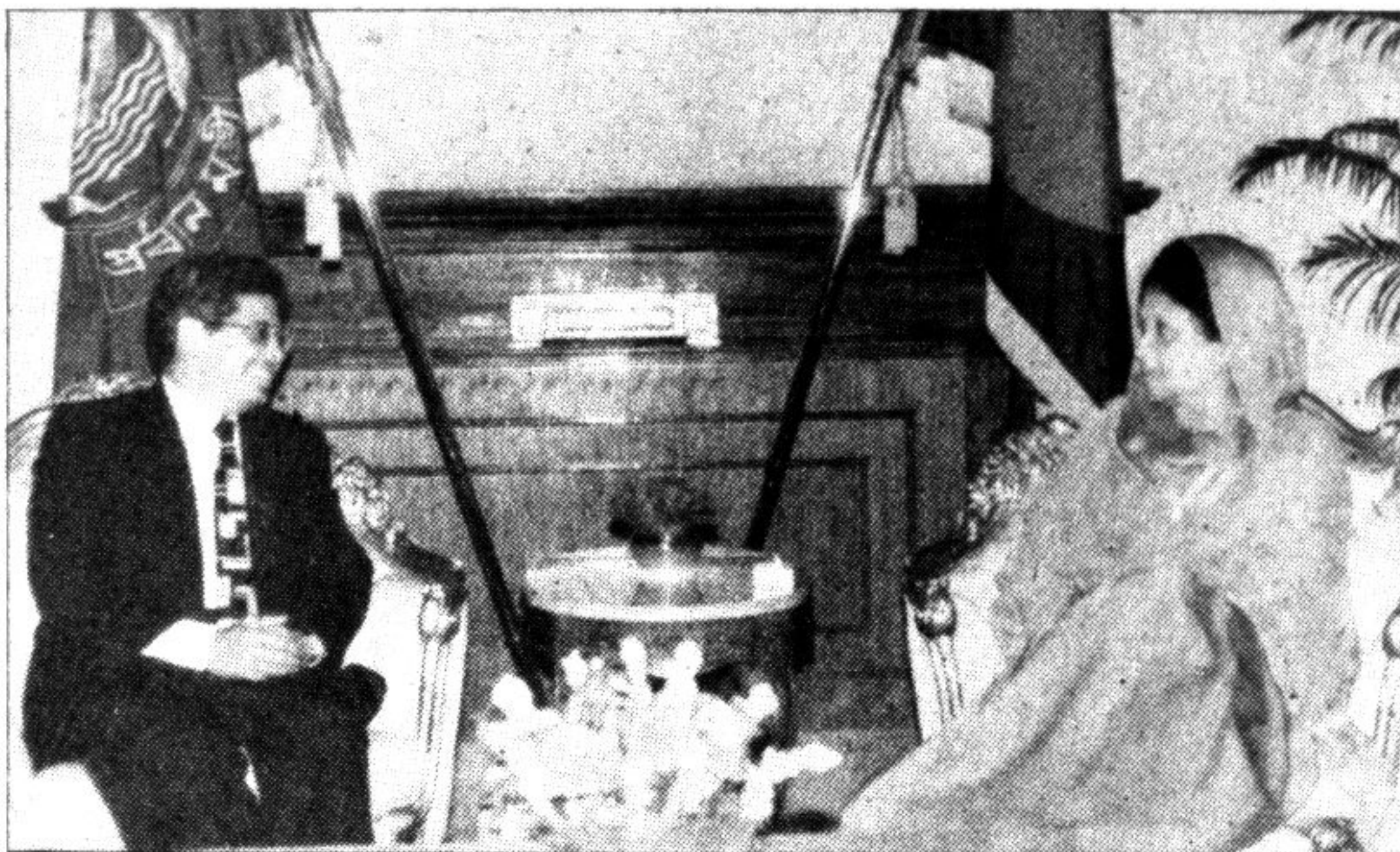
"And anyway, we prefer the entrance of a closed shop."

Well, what about the extra-milk-extra-sugar-tea that these dile-khores need? Because, after taking the cough syrup, the addicts feel thirsty — a symbolic drying up of their bodily organs.

"Oh, there are the chawallas (tea vendors), who nowadays carry extra sugar to meet the extra demand of these special customers. In exchange of higher charge of course."

On special occasions like on the eve of the departure of a friend living abroad, we have a supply of alcohol and garzas...

de-la-grande Mephistopheles, Yak. Yak !! Where is the cosy chit-chat?



Outgoing Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Ahmed Fazi-Bin-Haji Abdul Razak made a farewell call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday. — PID photo

### Seminar on fisheries development Production-based bank loan suggested

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman yesterday said the mode of sanctioning loan from banks should be amended in case of planned pisciculture for the development of fisheries, reports UNB.

He was speaking at the concluding session of the two-day seminar on 'The Role of Loan in Fisheries Development: Problems and Solution,' organised by the fish directorate, on the occasion of the fish fortnight '94 at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council auditorium.

Noman said the release of bank loan against the small and middle size fish farming on the collateral basis was impossible in the socio-economic condition of the country. He suggested that bank loan should be sanctioned on the basis of supervision of production activities.

Termining the planned pisciculture as "technology-based activity" the minister said the fisheries industry cannot flourish without running capital and the bank officials should come forward to establish good trading relations with the fish farmers.

Presided over by the Governor of Bangladesh Bank M Khorshed Alam, the technical session was participated by Major (retd) Akhtaruzzaman MP, secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock AZM Nasir Uddin, Vice-chairman of Export Promotion Bureau, Anisul Haq Chowdhury.

Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank ABM Mahbubul Amin Khan presented the key-note paper.

Later, the Fisheries Minister visited the on-going fish fair arranged at the premises of the BARC.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a group of leaders and workers of the undivided CPB who joined her party at her official Minto Road residence in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### What's on today . . . .

**Rotaract Club of Shahbagh:** The 3rd joint meeting with Rotaract Club of Uttara and Dhaka University Rotaract Club will be held. Venue: Academy for Planning and Development. Time: 10 am.

**Lions Club of Dhaka Lalbagh:** The regular meeting will be held. Venue: Shenyang Chinese Restaurant, Purana Paltan. Time: 5:15 pm.

**FPAB:** The concluding function of the year-long programme for observing the 40th founding anniversary of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) will be held. Chief guest: Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali. Special guest: Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf. Venue: Shaheed Maizuddin auditorium, FPAB. Time: 4 pm.

**Bangla Academy:** A discussion and milad mahfil will be held on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Ferdous Khan will preside. Venue: Academy's seminar room. Time: 5 pm.

**Seminar:** On "Islamic heritage of Bangladesh". Key-note speaker: Dr Mohammad Ibrahim. Discussants: Mohammad Alamgir, Begum Nazma Khan Majlish. Prof. Mohammad Sirajul Islam will preside. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 5 pm.

### Weather

#### Moderate rain likely

Occasional moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy falls at places during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

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

Day temperature is likely to fall by 1-2 degrees Celsius over the country.

Meantime, Patuakhali experienced the highest 16 mm rain during the last 12 hours till 6 pm yesterday.

Country's highest temperature 34.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest 24.0 degrees at Feni.

Sun sets today (Friday) at 6:29 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:33 am.

The maximum and minimum temperature and humidity of some major cities/towns recorded yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.2	26.7	73	76
Chittagong	32.5	25.3	77	78
Rajshahi	32.1	26.2	88	74
Khulna	31.7	26.0	81	85
Barisal	31.2	25.6	89	92
Sylhet	34.6	26.2	74	69
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.5	77	84

### Mother and Child Health Fortnight begins Aug 25

Mother and Child Health Fortnight will begin on August 25 in the country with the participation of political, socio-cultural and professional organisations, NGOs and health workers to generate social awareness regarding primary and preventive health care and promotion of health services, reports BSS.

Talking to the journalists yesterday Director General of Health Prof M Nurunnabi said immediate objectives of the fortnight is to provide vitamin A to all the 5.1 million children between six-month-to-two-year age group, antihelminthic drug and health mes-

sages to 14 million primary school children, TT vaccine to all the pregnant mothers and specific information to all women from 15 to 45 years of age regarding iodised salt, family planning, breast feeding, oral saline and vitamin A and TT.

UNICEF, NORAD and the World Health Organisation (WHO) are providing necessary assistance for the fortnight — the slogan of which is "Save Mother and Child" he said.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the fortnight at the International Conference Centre (ICC) on August 25.

### 7TH JEXCA RE-UNION

2-4 December 1994 at JCC

REGISTRATION IS NOW ON

Last date of Registration is 15.11.1994

Contact: JEXCA Office, 107, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Ph: 867472-75. Fax: 880-2-863360 and its branches at Khulna: 89, Musalmanpara Road, Khulna. Ph: 041-21389. Chittagong: Suraya Mansion (3rd Floor), 30, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. Ph: 031-504092 and at USA: 1223, White Plains Road # 317, Bronx, NY 10472. Fax: 718-518-1077

## MANAGING DIRECTOR

**Stainless Industrial Corporation Ltd. (SICOL)** is an established and reputed Manufacturer of Stainless Steel Cutlery. The Company's products have extensive local and foreign markets.

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For this top level job, the primary criterion is that the incumbent must have full confidence to rate himself as one of the best professionals that the country has to offer. He must have a proven track record in a top management position preferably in a medium sized industrial venture. A degree in Mechanical Engineering with a strong marketing exposure is desirable.

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TMC BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 52 NEW ESKATON ROAD DHAKA.

### Formulation of Hajj policy urged

Tahfiye Harmain Parishad Bangladesh yesterday urged the government to formulate a Hajj policy and construct a permanent Hajj camp near Zia International Airport, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, president of the Parishad Maulana Sadek Ahmed Siddique demanded transfer of Bangladesh Hajj office from Jeddah to Makkah and formation of a probe committee to investigate into the activities of the Hajj mission and medical team which went to Saudi Arabia on the occasion of Hajj this year.

### DU students meet Biswas

A 10-member delegation of Management department of the Dhaka University yesterday called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban, reports UNB.

The delegation, led by assistant general secretary of DUCSU Nazim Uddin Alam, apprised the President of the treatment of Shahadat Hossain, Student of Management department and sought assistance for his further treatment abroad.

The student delegation also apprised President Biswas of the peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the University.

President advised them to be tolerant to each other for maintaining peace in the educational institutions.

### Huda inaugurates Indonesian cultural evening

Information Minister Nazim Huda yesterday inaugurated the Indonesian cultural evening marking the 49th anniversary of Indonesian Independence Day at the Silpakala Academy auditorium in the city, reports BSS.

The minister said, culture transcends geographical barriers and promotes amity, understanding and peace.

The function was also addressed by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahan Ara Begum and Indonesian envoy in Dhaka Hadi Wayarabi Alhadar.

Referring to the close cultural affinities between Bangladesh and Indonesia, Huda welcomed frequent holdings of more cultural exchanges between the two nations.



Friday

#### Morning Session

- 8:00 Opening announcement
- 8:10 News in Bangla
- 8:15 Alor Dishari
- 8:40 Our Friends The Dolphins
- 9:00 Khelar Jogat
- 9:30 Film show: Batman
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:05 Moner Mukure
- 11:15 Film Show: Tarzan
- 11:40 Programme of Health: Prescription
- 11:55 Musical Programme: Morami

#### Evening Session

- 3:00 Opening announcement
- 3:15 Cartoon film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 3:40 Bangla Feature Film
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Sports Programme
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Musical programme: Malancha
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
- 9:00 Magazine programme: Manabdhikar
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Film show: Law and Order
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing



An artiste presenting songs at a cultural evening organised by the Happy Cultural Society, a new organisation of radio, TV and stage artistes, at the Russian Cultural Centre in the city yesterday. — Star photo