

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Birds of the Same Feather Flock Together

by Shamsad Mortuza

"de-la-grande Mephistopheles, Yak, Yak!", cried out Tenilda, 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 Tenilda 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 mole-holes. 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. Is it 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 men's 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 paper 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



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 sympathise."

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 youngmen."

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

Well, what about the extra-milk-extra-sugar-tea that these dle-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 ganzas...

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

Formulation of Hajj policy urged

Tahfiz 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 Bangabandhu, 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 addressed State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahan Ara Begum and Indonesian envoy in Dhaka Hadi Wayarabadi Alhadar.

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

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

Huda inaugurates Indonesian cultural evening

Information Minister Nazimul 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.

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Morning Session

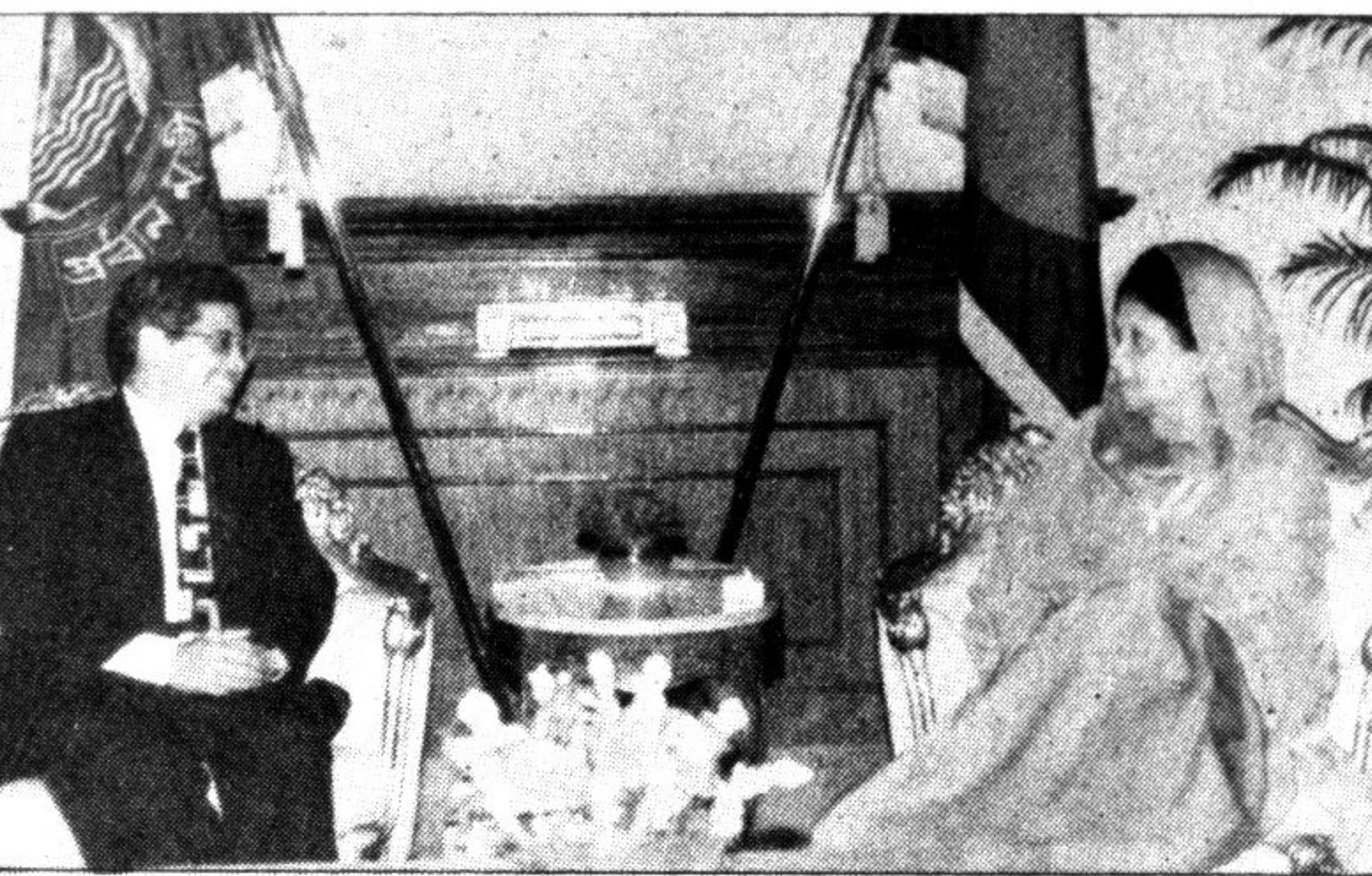
8:00 Opening announcement
8:10 News in Bangla
8:15 Alor Dishari
8:40 Our Friends The Dolphins
9:00 Khelar Jogat
9:30 Film show: Batman
10:00 News in English
10:05 Moner Mukure
11:15 Film Show: Tarzan
11:40 Programme of Health: Prescription
11:55 Musical Programme: Morami

Evening Session

3:00 Opening announcement
3:15 Carton 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

Friday

Weather



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.

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.

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 Huq Chowdhury.

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