

Dhaka Day by Day

Renters' Blues

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Of all the ordeals one has to go through in this city nothing is perhaps more frustrating than trying to find a suitable place to stay. It is not that there is a dearth of TO-LET signs at every corner one turns to; the scarcity is in the number of flats that are reasonably decent and do not require one to steal or sell one's jewelry in order to pay their rents. Yet house-hunting is only a fraction of the trauma.

The real nightmare begins when after days of sweaty searching, that has left you with an empty pocket and an aversion for rickshaws, you have finally reached the stage where a landlord has agreed to rent out his flat at a rent that you feel you can afford. The advance has been paid and all that is left is the signing of the contract. On the promised day of this happy event, however, your prospective landlord throws a bombshell on you. He is very sorry to say that the flat has already been rented out to his son's friend's sister in law, naturally a relative gets priority.

After this earth-shattering experience you may be lucky enough to finally find another apartment that will not vanish into thin air when you are not looking. But wait till you actually move in. Your *bariwal* (landlord), the sweet-faced, benign-looking old man has suddenly turned into an insensitive sadistic demon. All sorts of rules will be thrown at you: the water pump will be turned off at noon time (forget the we have water 24 hours' promise); you cannot dry your clothes on the common roof; it looks bad; no music can be played in the morning, afternoon or nighttime; and fifty other rules to make your life miserable.

Then there are the little surprises waiting for you at your new home. This is especially true of the bathroom. Your 9,000-taka per month flat has a toilet whose flush either does not work, works only once a day, or simply does not exist!

Another thing that you may find out about the bathroom is that only one out of the four taps works, and there is no shower. So bang your head on the walls for not asking first. Also be prepared for a perpetual water crisis. Here starts the life with water in the buckets dragged up from the outside lines and stored, and here ends your weekend dreams of a leisurely bath and a shampoo.



vicious dog has chased your poor feline angel all over the garden? Yours, of course!

On the other side of the story, the landlord will no doubt have his own list of grievances: 'They completely wrecked the place; I had to spend a fortune making repairs; you see, when they're not your own, you abuse things.' He will also go on about how the tenant's kids were so rowdy and the music was so loud that nobody in the building could sleep at night and how all sorts of people came over and played poker at odd hours of the night.

All said and done, however, the grass is greener on the *bariwal*'s side. They don't have to worry about a roof over their heads or of getting a notice to leave within a month. They don't have to be at the mercy of someone else for their water supply. Most of all, they are the ones who get the fat sum at the end of the month.



Activists of BCL (M-1) damaged a police vehicle when the police reached the Jagannath Hall of the Dhaka University to make a search on the hall.

—Star photo

Economic emancipation prime objective of govt'

Information Minister Nazmul Huda said yesterday that the prime objective of the government was to provide institutional shape to democracy by ensuring economic emancipation of the people, strengthening the independence and sovereignty of the country, reports BSS.

The Information Minister was addressing a public meeting at the Mohammadpur Town Hall premises in the capital, organised on the occasion of the 16th founding anniversary of BNP.

Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali, Salauddin Ahmed, MP and leaders of the Mohammadpur Thana BNP and its affiliated organisations, also

One awarded life term for murder

CHITTAGONG, Sept 2: The fifth additional district and sessions judge here Feroz Ahmad in a judgement on Wednesday awarded life term to Muhammad Musa and fined him Taka 5,000 in absentia on charge of murder, reports BSS.

The judge also sentenced Yusuf and M. Haroon, two brothers of the convicted person to one year rigorous imprisonment (RI) each for injuring two sons of the complainant.

The prosecution story is that the accused persons attacked and seriously injured Haji Abul Khair and his sons Shawkat Ali and Liaquat Ali while they were fixing the boundary of their land. Shawkat succumbed to his injury later.

A case was filed in this connection with Rangunia police

addressed the meeting.

Nazmul Huda said BNP was founded to materialise the hopes and aspirations of the people. He said the party had been doing hard to quicken the process of development by establishing multi-party democracy, ensuring freedom of press, and upholding fundamental rights of the people.

He said the people had elected BNP for the third time for its development and production politics.

He pointed out that during the rule of this government all of the union parishes, paurashavas, city corporations and Jatiya Sangsads by elections were held free and fair under the supervision and guidance of independent and sovereign Election Commission.

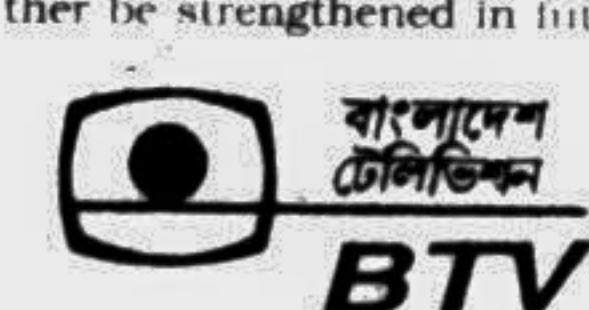
LDF to hold solidarity congregation

By Staff Correspondent

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) will hold a 'solidarity congregation' on September 7 in front of the National Press Club. The rally aimed at mobilising public support against blasphemy law and in demand of trial of the 1971 war criminals.

The LDF leaders yesterday exchanged views with the leaders of Garments Sramik Federation regarding September 7 programme.

Coordinators of the LDF Bimal Biswas, Sharif Nurul Amin and Abu Syed Khan and federation leaders Amirul Huq Amin, Touhidur Rahman, Haji Khan and Monwara Begum were present at the meeting.



4.30 Opening of the session
4.40 Tripitak recitation
4.45 Magazine Programme: Surja Mukhee
5.10 News in Bangla
5.25 Musical programme: Kids Song
6.00 Educational programme: Tarunma
6.30 Population programme: Antekar
7.00 Folk songs programme: Bishbari
7.25 Comedy series: Major Dad
8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 Programme on Agriculture: Mati O Manush
9.00 Drama: Biswa Natak
10.00 News in English
10.30 Drama series: Dynasty
11.30 Khabar/The News
11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary
11.45 Closing of the session

Weather

Light rain likely

Temporary light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports BSS.

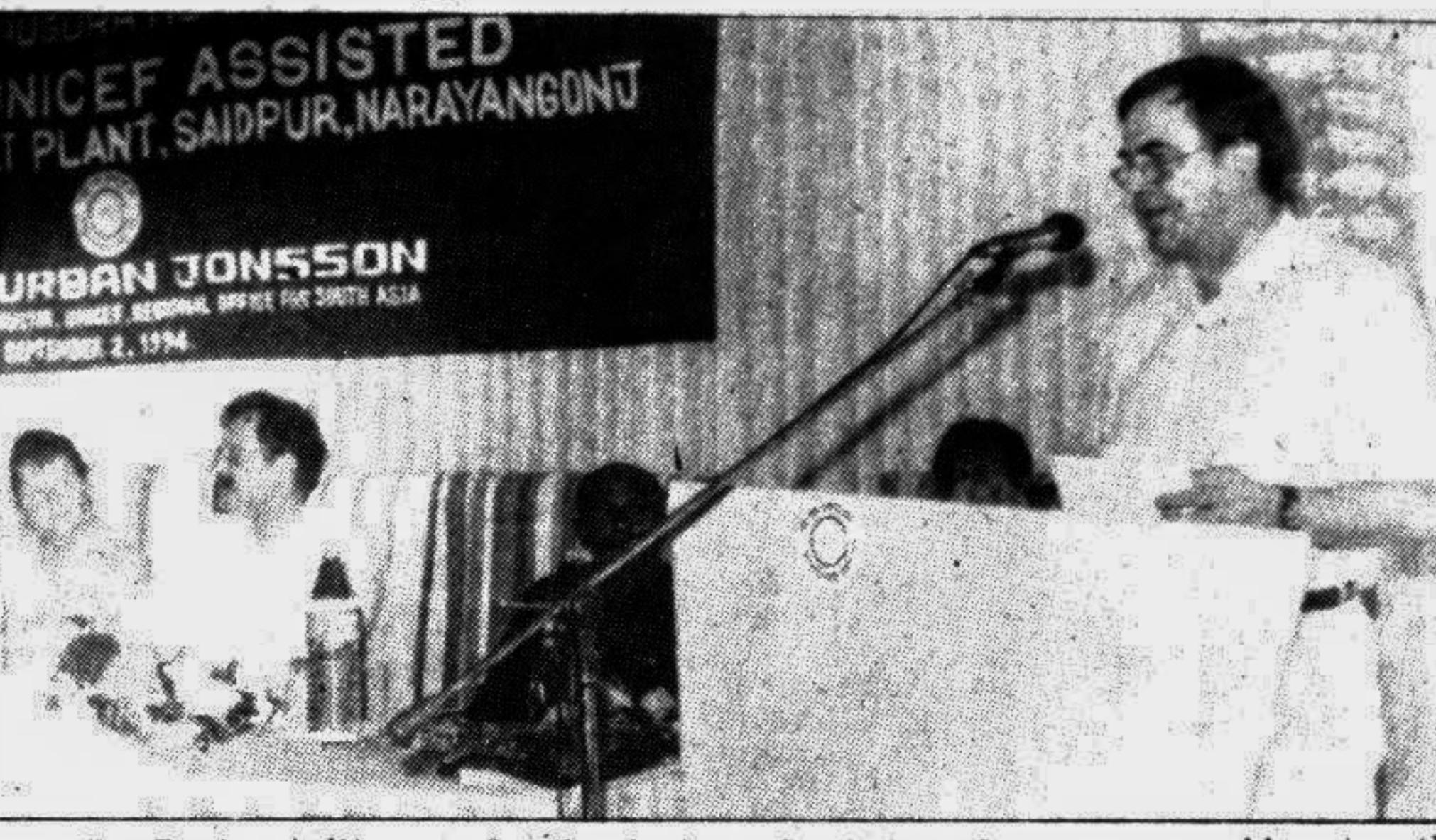
Met office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest 23.6 degrees at Rangamati.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6:15 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5:41 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity of some major cities/towns recorded yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.5	25.5	71	66
Chittagong	32.7	25.2	74	78
Rajshahi	33.4	25.5	82	73
Khulna	30.7	26.1	83	77
Barisal	30.5	25.0	80	85
Sylhet	35.0	25.8	74	70
Cox's Bazar	30.5	24.6	68	85



UNICEF's Regional Director for South Asia, Dr. Urban Jonson, seen addressing the inaugural programme of an iodized salt plant yesterday in Syedpur, Narayanganj.

—Star photo

Govt contemplating enactment of laws: Badruddoza

Donation of blood without test of B-hepatitis criminal offence

The government is contemplating enactment of laws to make punishment provisions for offences like donation of blood without B-hepatitis test and use of non-sterilised syringes and other equipment on the patients. Deputy Leader of the House Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Speaking at the installation ceremony of Bangladesh Dental Association at Hotel Sonargaon he said donation of blood without B-hepatitis test and use of non-sterilised equipment were criminal offence as those spread dreadful diseases like liver cirrhosis and AIDS.

Presided over by Dr A. Hasan, president of the association the function was also addressed among others by State Minister for Textiles Major (retd) Abdul Mannan, secretary-general of private medical practitioners' association, former principal of Dhaka Dental College Dr Syed Manzurul Huq and Dr. Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman of the association.

Speaking on economic emancipation

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday urged the well off section of the society to supplement the government efforts for the promotion of human resources towards attaining economic emancipation in the country, reports BSS.

In a message yesterday Sheikh Hasina said, 'I, on behalf of Bangladesh Awami League, the people of Bangladesh and my own behalf, extend to your highness and through you to the people of Qatar, our cordial greetings and warmest felicitation.'

The Leader of the Opposition hoped that the bonds of friendship, mutual respect and cooperation between the two countries, would further be strengthened in future.

Lions district governor JL Bhowmik chaired the function.

Taking part in the discussion President Biswas said our society is basically a rural based one. If the rural people could be extended necessary assistances for economic development then they would be able to be self-sufficient, he said.

On his back home Hanif visited United Arab Emirates (UAE) and performed holy Umrah at Makkah.

City Mayor Mohammad Hanif returned here yesterday after attending and international colloquium of mayors on social development at the headquarters of United Nations, reports BSS.

Mayors of more than 85 cities attended the conference held from August 16 to August 18 last.

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