

Dhaka Day by Day

The Joy of Kite-flying

by ASM Nurunnabi

Kite flying is a popular form of sport of recreation in our country. A kite is made of a light frame of varying shapes covered with paper, plastic or cloth. The kite commonly found in our country is made of paper. It is attached to a long cord held in the hand or wound on a reel or drum (called *lata* in Bangla) and sent up into the air.

One tradition holds that kites were invented by a 5th-century B.C. Greek scientist, Archytas of Tarentum. They have been in use among Asian peoples from time immemorial. The sport has long been a national pastime of the Koreans, Chinese, Japanese and Malays. Kite flying at night over a house was believed to keep evil spirits away. A religious significance is still connected to some ceremonial kiteflying in Asia.

Practical use has been made of kites through the ages. Tradition states that a Korean general once suspended a lantern from a kite as an inspiring signal to his troops. In his famous experiment of 1752, Benjamin Franklin hung a metal key from a kite line and, by attracting electricity from the air during a storm, demonstrated the electrical nature of lightning. Kites were long used for weather observations; instruments were carried aloft to record otherwise unobtainable data until the advent of balloons and airships.

Kites in the shapes of birds, men, ships, butterflies and other forms have a novelty appeal. A favourite Chinese fancy kite is the dragon, a ferocious-looking head kite with many smaller flat body kites strung behind on parallel tie lines.

Kites are best flown in open spaces where the wind velocity is 80 to 20 miles per hour less wind makes it difficult to lift the kites and more makes them hard to handle or may even break them. Kite-flying tournaments are annual events in many communities.

In the old part of the Dhaka city, kite-flying is extremely popular. Both the young and the old take part in it. There is a particular season in a year when this game is played with high enthusiasm and gusto.

Because of limited open space in that part of the city, kite-flying is mostly done on house tops. The thrill of the game lies in engaging other kites in elimination bouts. In this competition, various techniques are used. Elaborate preparations are made to impart sharp edge to the cords used by means of various concoctions such as mixing fine grains of



broken glass with glue made with flour and other exotic ingredients. Such treatment of cords used for kites in competition is called *manja*. Apart from the various techniques used in the competitions, the experts in this line strictly guard their secrets of the composition of their *manja*.

In the peak season, the skyline in that part of the city is covered with kites of various shapes and colour. Another thrill of the game is that when a kite is cut loose from its cord by an opponent's kite, the maimed kite floats in the sky in the direction the wind blows. If the wind is strong, such kites without moorings travel a long distance. But the children of the neighbourhood are never deterred by their journey across the sky. They run

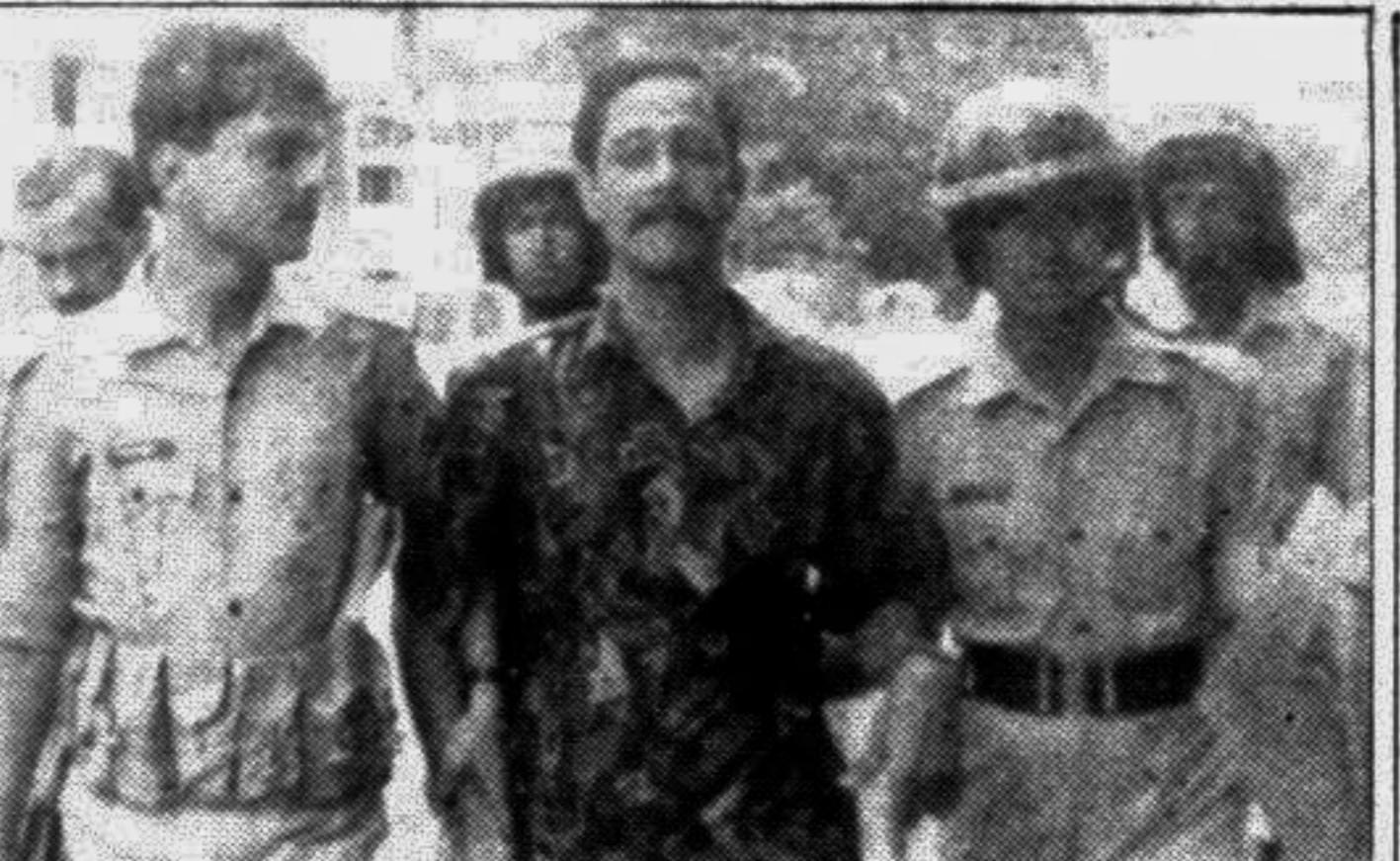
after it with long poles in their attempts to catch it. In many cases, their efforts prove futile when such break-away kites fall on high trees or on houses of others or go into the jurisdiction of another neighbourhood where the children of that locality take care.

The experts of kite flying often prove themselves very bold. They fly their kites across the boundaries of their neighbourhoods and swoop down on opponent's kites in another neighbourhood often miles away. If their bold attempts fail, they suffer considerable loss when substantial lengths of their cords are snatched by all and sundry in the path of the flight of the defeated kite.

The kiteflying culture is not so developed in the new part of the city. The reason perhaps is that the new generation coming from more financially stable inhabitants of this part of the city are not acquainted with the thrills and excitements of the game which may be regarded as archaic in their eyes, beside video games, for example.

During the high season of kites flying, some children become victims of accidents from falls from house tops when they indulge in this game on open roofs without parapets. Another important precaution that needs to be observed is that contact of the hand line with high-tension electric lines or wires be avoided because of the great danger of electrocution through a damp cord.

As with many other things, prices of kites have now become high, considering the small resources in general of the children who play this game. Particularly poor children are deprived of this great source of joy. For them, the compensating excitement lies in running after kites which are cut loose in competitions.



Police rounding up Awami Juba League leader Fazlul Haque from near the Jatiya Press Club during yesterday's hartal in the city. — Star photo

Indian HC to hold print show from Sept 16

The Indian High Commission will organise a fortnight-long print show of the Dhaka print makers from September 16 at the High Commission art gallery at Satmasjid Road in the city, reports BSS.

The exhibition will be inaugurated by noted artist Mohammed Kibria and will remain open to all till September 30.

This is the first exhibition to be held in the art gallery of the Indian High Commission.

Prof Mannan leaves for Vienna

State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M. A. Mannan left here yesterday for Vienna. He is leading a two-member Bangladesh delegation to attend the 38th general meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), reports BSS.

The other member of the delegation is engineer MA Quayum, Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC).

The delegation is expected to return home on September 26.



BDR personnel in front of the secretariat during yesterday's hartal hours. — Star photo

Sircar tells JS

Enrolment target for primary level education 95 pc

The government has fixed a target of enrolling 95 per cent of the country's children at the primary level by the year 2000, reports UNB.

Disclosing this in parliament yesterday, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar said enrollment in primary school was 75.5 per cent in 1991 and the target for 1995 has been set at 82 per cent to ensure education for all by the year 2000.

Replies to a question from Niamatullah Sabu (BNP), the minister said the government has taken up various programmes to implement "Education for All" by the year 2000. The programmes include declaring primary education as compulsory, introduction of mass education and formulation of a national work-plan.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Responding to a supplementary from Maj (rtd) Md. Motiur Rahman Chan, the minister said four teachers will be given appointment for every unregistered primary school.

There is no shortage of fund to implement the mass education programme, he said referring to the highest allocation in the education sector.

Replies to another supplementary from Maj (rtd) Md. Motiur Rahman Chan, the minister said that repeated hartals and indiscipline have been hampering education programmes as well as development and economic activities in the country.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no plan to nationalise any private school at present, he added.

Replies to a written question from Advocate Khairul Anam, the minister said there are 37,710 government primary schools and 13,344 registered private primary schools in the country. There is no