

# Dhaka Day by Day

## When the Plague Fear Will Hopefully Go

by Goutam Prosad Das

The scourge in the form of plague was suspected in two Bangladeshi nationals, sent back from Dubai, on the plea that the aircraft that they had boarded on, had touched at Bombay, on way to the UAE. However, the government has come up with the announcement that none of them had been found carrying the plague germs.

Things like natural disasters, pandemic diseases, wars, genocide etc., always contain enormous panic and rumours, while propaganda become rife in such an insurmountable crises.

The ways and means are not handy for all sections of people to combat the disease. If one develops, on account of seasonal change during this period of the year, some temperature along with throat pains and vomiting tendency, there is no reason to be shaky or afraid. This is because a course of tetracycline capsules, in due course, is cent percent effective to curb the onslaught, according to some of our local renowned physicians. The prices of higher antibiotics have gone up, as the disease has threatened to come on to our threshold, while a new avenue for exorbitant profit making is wide open for our medicine hoarders, if the uninvited harbinger of destruction and devastation, prolongs its stay in the country.

Avid cricket fans in the city have also been perturbed to hear the rapid spread of the disease throughout India, lest the incident might be postponed, and cut short cricketing itinerary of West Indies in India. A spiky abscess on belly indeed!

Meanwhile, the government has imposed a ban on Indian food imports, temporarily, and sealed many border areas to prevent the plague from entering Bangladesh. Naturally we are facing a price hike of some food items due to restricted import. Looking at the present situation may take a new turn, similar to that which had evolved when the government withdrew baby food of a certain brand from the market, after radio activity had been detected in its

imported items. This had been the aftermath related to the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the once Soviet Union.

Price hike is one of a few things our common people cannot ignore. The smugglers, for instance have lost enthusiasm for their black-marketing, for people are most unlikely to risk their lives in smuggling food, fruit and live stock, inspite of lower prices.

Horticulture may also suffer, and our flower-shop owners may have to face a flower shortage, forcing us to take from our bosom friends and relatives a single flower or two as a form of a present, instead of a bunch, although we might be ready to pay more for it at a florists shop. People, living along the border, fear that they may be more vulnerable than others and are having a night-marish time.

As remedial measures to counter the outbreak of the disease, the government, and some voluntary organisations, have opted for medical screening of incoming people, at airport transit points. Ships/vessels coming from India have also been fumigated at each entry point at the ports.

Meanwhile, some social organisations had brought out processions in the streets of Dhaka, to create an awareness against the disease among the people. Yet the question remains whether these processions which had paraded through the dirty areas (which are adjacent to slum housing, where the city garbage are being dumped everyday, and where the dwellers urgently need the message of these processions) had any lasting impact.

The outbreak of the disease has cast a gloom over the fervour of "Durga Puja", the prime ritual of the Hindu community. Last year the puja was not observed for a different reason. This year, therefore, the expectation for a better celebration of the occasion was high. However, the plague fear had a dampening affect on it. At present, the fear now looks unfounded and things may go well, hopefully.



MONDAY '94



The Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) and Dhaka University Film Society (DUFSS) jointly brought out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the 4-day National Film Festival '94, which began October 8.

### World Post Day observed

The World Post Day was observed all over the country yesterday elsewhere of the world, reports BSS.

Speaking at a function at the Bangladesh Post Office auditorium, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam said that postal services should be modernised and developed.

He said that 400 new post offices had been opened by this government. The minister called upon the officials at all levels to improve the quality of the service by putting themselves in their best efforts.

Later the minister distributed prizes and certificates among the winners of the international letter, writing competition, SAARC letter writing competition '93 and the best officials of different categories of Bangladesh Post Office for 1994. The minister also released a special cover of taka five denomination printed by the Bangladesh Post Office to mark the occasion.

Meanwhile, a seminar on 'postal management' was held at the Postal Academy conference hall in Rajshahi with MR Jahangir, postmaster general, northern circle in the chair.

### Procession in support of sound movies

Leading personalities from the film industry, university teachers and students marched through the city in a colourful procession yesterday in support of sound movies, reports UNB.

Chairman of UNB Amanullah Khan, noted filmmaker MA Samad, Chairman of the Linguistics Department of Dhaka University Dr Rajeeb Humayun, Film Directors Kazi Hayat and Aziz Meher and Deputy Registrar of Dhaka University Mohammad Selim took part in the procession. The procession, accompanied by musical band and two horse carriages, was staged on the second day of a four-day National Film Festival, arranged by the Dhaka University Film Society to create awareness among the public for good and healthy movies.

Wearing T-shirts, headgears and waving flags, banners, festoons and posters, the marchers chanted various slogans in favour of good films.

The carnival was staged to breathe a fresh air amidst violence and terrorism that so often marks the Dhaka University campus life.

The processionists marched through the roads from TSC and terminated at the National Press Club.

### Promotion

Md Wajidul Islam, General Manager, Monetary Management and Technical Unit of Bangladesh Bank has been promoted to the post of the Executive Director, reports UNB.

### CU degree pass exams shifted

CHITTAGONG, Oct 9: Degree pass examinations of Chittagong University (CU) 1993 scheduled to be held on October 20, will now be held on December 5, reports BSS.

All offices of the university will remain closed from October 11 to October 13 on account of the holy Durga Puja.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITY

If you are an ENGLISH speaking Lady from Sylhet, speaking fluent Sylheti & if you can spare one year from 1st January '95 if you have leadership qualities you may apply for the post of project officer to work with the community involvement & Development Adviser, at Tower Hamlets, LONDON. Guiding experience in this country or elsewhere is preferred. APPLY TO-General Secretary, Bangladesh Girl Guides Association, Guide House, New Baily Road Dhaka 1000, with Biodata along with Photograph no later than 22nd October 94.

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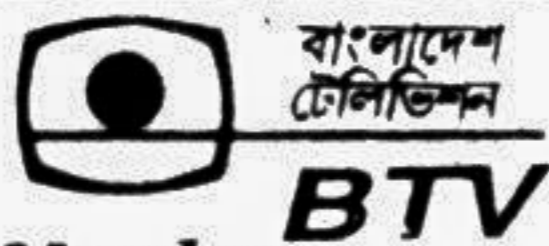
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- Monday**
- 4:45 Captain Planet
  - 5:10 News in Bangla
  - 5:25 Sports programme: Football
  - 6:30 Moder Garab Moder Asha
  - 7:00 Open University
  - 7:25 Nazrul songs
  - 8:00 News in Bangla
  - 8:30 Population programme: Janamat
  - 9:00 Ghare Baire
  - 10:00 News in English
  - 10:30 Comedy series: Murphy Brown
  - 11:00 Comedy series: Coach
  - 11:30 Khabar/The News

### Biswas visits injured army personnel

President Abdur Rahman Biswas visited the injured army personnel at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) yesterday, reports UNB.

Five army personnel were injured following a grenade blast on Saturday while participating in a regular exercise of the Bangladesh Army at Rajendrapur Cantonment in Gazipur district.

President Biswas enquired about the condition of the injured army men from the attending physicians and advised them to provide best possible treatment.

### ADP progress reviewed

The government has initiated drawing up a development plan to ensure optimum participation of people, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan at an inter-ministerial meeting held yesterday to review progress of the 1994-95 Annual Development Programme (ADP).

"The forthcoming plan won't be a mere economic planning document, rather it will be a complete socio-economic and political document," Dr Khan said. Development programmes in the upcoming plan will be placed in three different terms - short, medium and long - depending on their urgency.

Held at the NEC (National Economic Council) auditorium, the meeting reviewed in detail the progress of the current ADP and rules being followed in mobilising foreign aid.

The minister stressed the need for qualitative changes in the planning process by emphasising realistic programmes aimed at people's welfare.

### Dhaka wins award in KL fair

Bangladesh and China won the merit award for display of quality goods and the best decoration of their stalls at the seventh Malaysian International Fair (MIF'94) which concluded in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, reports BSS.

According to a message received in the city, a total of 220 companies from 19 countries participated in the fair held at the Putra World Trade Centre organised by the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers and sponsored by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia.

Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau represented Bangladesh with 12 companies - the Mighty International, Saleh Carpet Mills Ltd, Bengal Fine Ceramic, General Apparels Industries Ltd, Sharif Melamine Industries Ltd, Monno Industries Ceramic Ltd, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, BRB Cable, Arong, Mousumi Industries, Ananya Apparels Industries Ltd and MNR Enterprise in the fair.

### Weather

#### Temperature may fall

Light to moderate rain or thundershower may occur at many places over Rajshahi division at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Bansal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours commencing from 6am today, reports UNB.

The day temperature may fall by one to two degrees over the country during the period.

The highest temperature of the country was registered at 33.0 degrees Celsius at Satkhira and the minimum 23.0 degrees at Rangpur.

The maximum rainfall 36 mm was measured at Rangpur, followed by Sylhet with 27 mm, Rajshahi 22 mm, Dinajpur 21 mm and Cox's Bazar with 17 mm rain.

The sun sets today at 5:37 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:34 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded yesterday in different districts were given below:

City/Town	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.3	24.8	86	86
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.6	85	77
Sylhet	29.7	23.6	95	92
Rajshahi	29.4	23.5	90	88
Rangpur	25.3	23.4	93	93
Dinajpur	26.3	23.5	97	88

The Central Liaison Committee of the Secretariat Employees' Coordination Council brought out a procession in the city yesterday during their 4-hour work abstention to press home their charter of demands. — Star photo

## ADMISSION

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