

# Dhaka Day by Day

## City's Share of Superstition

by Raffat Binte Rashid

"Why is that crow cawing now, just when I am about to go out?"  
"Oh! Remove that broomstick, I am going to my office now."  
"I saw a black cat today. I am scared, what will happen next?"  
"I am laughing too much today, there's bad luck waiting for me. I'm sure."

"My mirror broke, I am doomed for seven years."

There's actually no end to this insane stupidity that people believe in.

What could a harmless crow do to you unless it targeted you for dropping what it ate or digested to be precise. And a broomstick? Other than cleaning your floor, what else could it be used for, specially when you are leaving for work — unless of course you had a bad dream about your boss and the broomstick.

What's in a colour — (just like what's in a name)? Be it black, blue or white, that blutty cute or ugly (whatever) bundle of fur is just a cat. Other than tugging



at your sarf or pants or licking your feet, arms and cheeks, what could it possibly do?

Well, isn't laughter the best medicine, at least that's what it was thought to be, and what about that saying: smile and the world will smile and you. It's not 'cry and the world will cry with you or land you its shoulders'. No — that never happens.

Accidents can occur — anytime, at any place — that's why they are called accidents. So what if your mirror broke? It breaks in the present tense, how can its action be a present continuous tense (of bad lucks) for the next seven long years?

Superstitions, as many strongly believe in and many, to some extent, even cherish it, is merely a practice for which there appears to be no rational substance. It can be categorised as religious, cultural and personal.

When you are in trouble, you count the 'holy beads'. You are sure they'll steer you out of the rough times. But what actually happened to you, logical mind and clear head that you claim to have and boast of. Maybe, you need both logic and blessings aplenty in life.

But superstition — or is it man's own convictions, is in full supply when it comes to cultural events like weddings. You cannot wear

anything black, it's bad for the new couple. You have to choose the right day and date that accord with, the sun, the stars and everything celestial, — even the comets. It doesn't matter who can attend the function or not or where it takes place, the positions of these objects have to be correct otherwise it'll be an unhappy marriage.

Thank god they are still not aware of the comet's influence on a marriage, (specially Halley's). It would then take seventyfive long years to solemnize the ceremony, provided if and when you see it, again. By that time perhaps the bride or the groom-to-be, will be in mourning for his or her chosen one.

It's absurd, it's crazy, but you never know what blind, illogical faith can do. This could be your own personal secret, just use it if you don't happen to like the man or woman you are about to marry. Just like the pen you used in your examination and passed with flying colours — it'll fly you through, hopefully.

Even in modern times, when objective evidence is highly valued and asked for, there are few people who would not, if pressed, admit to cherishing secretly one or two irrational beliefs or superstitions. For instance, if you have just one brother, you'll not touch or smell hibiscus flower, if you are madly in love with your husband you will not dress facing south — it'll all bring bad luck to them.

You will keep something or anything made of iron, like scissors, under your mattress to scare away the evil. You will wear amulets and talismans to bring good fortune or to keep you healthy and strong. And of course you'll make sure that when you open your slippers, they are not upside down, otherwise the evil spirits will be on your shoulders — until your slippers are turned right. You'll always make sure that you never let your hair open in the evenings and let the hawa (breeze) pass through. Because it is at these hours that the fairies and genies go home from earth, they might be attracted and fall in love with you. That'll do it, no human can be your's ever again.

Take a tip, if you are lucky and meet the genie that Aladdin set free, just think logically and keep him; a good genie like him would do you no harm except bring you riches and princesses (princes). But of course, rational thoughts and you don't go together. Do you?



Children participating in a 'biscuit race' at the National Press Club premises yesterday marking the 40th founding anniversary of the Press Club. — Star photo

## Production of KPM to be enhanced

CHITTAGONG, Oct 21: Measures are underway to enhance the annual production capacity of the Karnaphuli Paper Mills between 40,000 to 45,000 tonnes from the present capacity of 30,000 tonnes at an investment of Taka 350 crore, reports BSS.

This was stated by Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan while inaugurating a rally of the jute farmers at green jute foundation plot of the Karnaphuli Paper Mills at Kalurghat here.

The minister said that the government had planned to undertake large scale plantation of jute in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). He said jute would very soon become a major cash crop of the farmers of the area.

The raw-material requirement of the mill's expanded capacity will be entirely met from green jute grown in the Chittagong hill tracts, he added.

Zahiruddin Khan said heavy capital investment for the expansion of the existing paper industry and large scale plantation of jute would create a sustainable boom of multi-dimensional development activities on the economic front in the Chittagong hill tracts, and this economic upsurge would bring about dramatic uplift in the life pattern of the people of the hill districts.

Elaborating the potential role of green jute based industrial strategy, the industries minister said jute is a natural, renewable and environment-friendly fibre.

Khan said, for the first time in the whole world, Bangladesh had started production of pulp, paper and paper-based products from green jute. This programme will make singular contribution in regaining the lost glory of the 'golden fibre jute' of Bangladesh, he added.

Bangladesh is receiving lots of queries from all over the world for supply of green jute-based pulp. In this context, the industries minister said, the government had planned to set up a series of export-oriented green-jute-based pulp factories.

BTV Saturday	
4-30	Opening announcement
4-40	Triptik recitation
4-45	Parosh Moni
5-10	News in Bangla
5-25	Kids songs
6-00	Shikkangon
6-30	Samachar
7-00	Bashart
7-25	Comedy series: Major Dad
8-00	News in Bangla
8-30	Maati O Manush
9-00	Anantadhara
10-00	News in English
10-30	Drama series: Dynasty
11-30	Khabar/The news
11-40	Tomorrow's programme summary
	Closing announcement
11-45	Close down

## Weather

### Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain dry across the country with partly cloudy sky over Barisal and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Faridpur and Khulna during the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period over the country. In its outlook for tomorrow, Met office predicted little change. Giving extended outlook for another four days weathermen says that there would be no marked change.

Meantime, Rangamati experienced the highest 27 mm rain during the last 12 hours till 6:00 pm yesterday. Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Tangail and the lowest 19.8 degrees at Dinajpur. The sun sets today at 5:27 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:00 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.8	24.0	65	55
Chittagong	33.8	25.5	72	69
Rajshahi	32.4	22.2	63	77
Khulna	33.4	24.8	78	71
Barisal	31.0	23.0	84	75
Sylhet	30.0	23.3	80	73
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.0	75	—

## Saifur praises role of NGOs

Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman yesterday underscored the need for an integrated and united thrust by governmental and non-governmental organisations to achieve sustainable development in the country, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a ceremony of the head office building of Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion Saifur Rahman lauded the role of the good NGOs in social development of the country. He particularly mentioned the role of Proshika in the field of training, education, environment protection, poverty alleviation, and creation of employment opportunities, specially among the poor rural masses.

The 14-storey hexagonal-shaped new office of the Proshika is the tallest building at Mirpur township.

Minister of State for Planning Dr. Moyeen Khan attended the function as special guest while executive director of Proshika Qazi Faruque Ahmed presided. High Commissioner of Canada Jon J. Scott and Ambassador of the Netherlands Robert A. Vornis spoke on the occasion as guests of honour, while Proshika director, programme, Mahbubul Karim gave the address of welcome.

Rahman said that money and other resources would not be constraints in the way of implementing various uplift projects. "We have to increase our domestic production," he said adding "We can never reduce poverty unless we can develop our own resources". In this connection, he categorically said that sustainable development would be a far cry if we could not get rid of the "begging business."

## Memorial meeting on S M Ali

By Staff Correspondent

A memorial meeting on the occasion of the first death anniversary of S M Ali, founder-editor of The Daily Star, will be held on Monday, October 24 at 4:00 pm at the VIP lounge of the Jatiya Press Club.

Mrs Nancy Ali, widow of the late editor, will be the chief guest while some of S M Ali's friends, close associates and admirers will take part in the discussion arranged by the journalists and employees of The Daily Star.

## Railway Week begins today

The Bangladesh Railway (East Zone) will observe 'railway week' from today to October 28, a railway press release said in Chittagong Thursday reports BSS.

Heads of railway departments will visit different stations during the week and examine different aspects of railway services, including cleanliness of the stations, passengers and coaches, measures for preventing accidents, transportation of goods, safety of railway property, maintenance of buffet cars, etc.

Railway employees would also be motivated to improve services and increase income of the railway.

Four task forces have been formed to ensure execution of different programmes of railway week.

## 3 die in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least three persons were killed and another one was injured in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

A school boy was killed when a speeding minibus ran over him in front of the radio office at Agargaon at about 1:00 pm yesterday.

The victim, Mahfujur Rahman alias Raju, 16, son of one Zamal Uddin died on the spot.

In another road accident, a vendor was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at the Dholair Par bus stand yesterday morning.

The victim, Mohammad Ayub Ali, 22, was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at about 1:30 pm.

A contractor was killed when a running train knocked him down at the Banani rail crossing Thursday afternoon.

The victim, Shuva Sharma, 55, was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) where he died yesterday noon.

Police sent all the bodies to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

A 26-year-old Mizanur Rahman was injured at Sarulia Bazar under Demra police station at about 5:00 pm yesterday.

The victim, Mizan, received bomb injuries in his right hand and was admitted to the DMCH.

Mizan alleged that he was injured during a clash between two rival groups while he was passing through the area.

## Seminar on 'fight drug bite'

Shipping Minister M K Anwar yesterday underscored the need for maintaining congenial family discipline to build a society free from drug abuse, reports BSS.

Since the drug addicts in most cases are the victim of circumstances consolidation of family bond is indispensable to save our posterity from the curse of drug, he observed.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at a seminar on "fight drug bite" at Ramna Park in the city.

Jointly organised by Dhaka West Lions Club and Dhaka Tilottoma Lions Club, the seminar was addressed by Dr A K Azad Khan, additional director general BIRDEM.

## IBM Employment Opportunity

### IBM World Trade Corporation's Branch Office,

invites application for customer service engineering positions. If you have the following qualifications, and if you are looking for a challenging career, please send in your resume to the Branch Manager, IBM World Trade Corporation, 6th Floor, 14, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212 immediately.

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**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Local Government Engineering Department  
District-Sylhet

Memo No: LGED/EE/SYLHET/RDP-3/15-01/94-95/1545 Dated: 06-10-94

## Tender Notice

### No. 08/RDP-3/94-95

a) Sealed tenders are hereby invited for execution of the following schemes of FY: 1994-95 under RDP-3, LGED, District-Sylhet from the valid Pre-qualified Contractors/Construction Firms of RDP-3 of LGED in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 along with additional terms and conditions attached with this tender notice and tender schedule for the works. Contractors/Construction Firms should have to produce valid Pre-qualification documents along with the tender. The name of the scheme and scheme's serial number is to be stated on the sealed tender envelope. Tender schedules could be purchased from the offices of the undersigned: PD, RDP-3, 4/6, Lalmatia, Block-B, Dhaka-1207; Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, Executive Engineer, LGED, District-Moulvibazar/Hobiganj/Sunamganj, up to 29th October, 1994, during office hours. Tender will be received up to 01.30 PM of 30th October, 1994 in the specified tender boxes of the above mentioned offices and will be opened at 02.00 PM on the same day in presence of contractors or their authorised representatives (if any).

b) In the tender schedule itemwise realistic unit rate supported by details analysis should be mentioned both in words and in figures. Tender will not be acceptable if the quoted rates are not considered reasonably workable by the authority.

c) Earnest Money (security) @ 2.50% (Two point five per cent) on the basis of total quoted amount must be submitted along with the tender in the form of BD/CD (bank branch-Sylhet Pourashava area) from any recognised scheduled Commercial Bank in favour of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Sylhet. The successful tenderer will have to deposit security @ 10% (Ten per cent) of total quoted amount including E/M, in the form of BD/CD (Bank branch-Sylhet Pourashava area) from any recognised scheduled Commercial Bank in favour of Executive Engineer, LGED, Sylhet, within 3 (Three) working days from the day it has been asked for.

d) Govt decisions related to VAT, Income Tax, Overhead Charges etc. will be effective for the tenderers.

e) As the project is Foreign Aided, payment for works will be made when fund will be available. This notice is precised. Other information regarding the tender bid in question could be collected from the office of the undersigned during the office hour. Authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders without showing any reason thereof.

Scheme No.	Name of the Scheme with chainage	Cost of tender document (Tk)	Time for completion (Days)
RDP-3/21/94-95	Const. of Salutar-Gowainghat Road Chainage 00m to 920m from Salutar end	2000/00	150
RDP-3/22/94-95	Const. of Salutar-Gowainghat Road Chainage 920m to 1860m from Salutar end	2000/00	150
RDP-3/23/94-95	Const. of Salutar-Gowainghat Road Chainage 1860m to 2870m from Salutar end	2000/00	150
RDP-3/24/94-95	Const. of Salutar-Gowainghat Road Chainage 2870m to 3860m from Salutar end	2000/00	150
RDP-3/25/94-95	Const. of Salutar-Gowainghat Road Chainage 3860m to 4920m from Salutar end	2000/00	150
RDP-3/26/94-95	Const. of Salutar-Gowainghat Road Chainage 4920m to 5960m from Salutar end	2000/00	150
RDP-3/27/94-95	Const. of Salutar-Gowainghat Road Chainage 5960m to 6950m from Salutar end	2000/00	150
RDP-3/28/94-95	Const. of Salutar-Gowainghat Road Chainage 6950m to 7965m from Salutar end	2000/00	150
RDP-3/29/94-95	Const. of Salutar-Gowainghat Road Chainage 7965m to 8950m from Salutar end	2000/00	150
RDP-3/30/94-95	Improvement of the Salutar-Gowainghat Road by E/work Chainage 00m to 8950m from Salutar end	500/00	120

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