Dhaka Day by Day

Life in a Box

by Samia Islam

Back in the old days a must among home builders was a little piece of grassy plot, extravagantly called the lawn, surrounded by as many trees as the owner could accommodate. Today a must among householders is a security guard and an intercom with atleast one lift and a generator for emergencies. Are we under siege or something? Not yet but we need the protection right in our homes to be on the safe side anyway. We can do away with trees which will curb the spread of mosquitoes and other bugs and also enable free flow of light which has become a luxury as well in this era when high rises have taken a form of concrete jumble. Yet they are a sort of dream havens. But what about the people who are already residing in such complexes - rented or otherwise? They are happy and lucky no doubt with their share of the cake. But even a creamy piece of cake has its down-sides.

One would think that with at least 45 to 50 families - sometimes more - living literally under the same roof, the social interaction would be imperative just for day to day survival. Life in the same compound has to give rise to a high level of co-operation between and among the adults as well as their offsprings. Reality. though, is far from it. Under the pseudo intimacy there develops a subtle current of petty jealousies concerning, maybe, the kids' new toys or the make of the family car or any such triviality. Typical conversation of parents can be left up to the imagination. But when the children do as their elders it has to break your

When the humans are not in direct contact with the nature surrounding them then all this incompatibility is quite natural. Global warming has all of us shaking in our boots while the day to day behaviour of man is already changing and doing greater damage than the green house effect. In a 1400 sft flat where sunlight is rare, greenery consists of the two dying

money-plants suffering in the 4' by 8' verandah which in turn is always occupied with wet clothing forever hanging on the clothes-lines, then it's not a surprise that people are becoming impatient, snappy and irritable. For the children it's worse. At a time when they are curious about everything around them, when they are growing both mentally and physically, they are cooped up in a flat where it's hard to walk without bumping into each other. If the car park serves as the play area for the toddiers then what of the teenager? Brian Laras and Sachin Tendulkars who drive sixers right through windows and parked cars in the cricket season and Bebetos and Romarios who drop-kick balls that land on the unsuspecting passer-by's head. The girls, however, remainout of the scene.

Modern-day apartment living brings you in contact with the Saharan Climate - scorching heat in summer and freezing cold in winter. To let in what little light and air you can get, you try to open some windows but people from all around stop whatever they were doing to take a look inside your lounge or your bedrooms so you have to draw the curtains and keep them that way till hell freezes over. It's hard not to take a peek if the other window is only an arms length away but according to building construction laws the distance between two buildings should be one and a half times the height of the building. Going as high up and away from the ground as they can people are not only losing contact with reality, they are also in most cases making snug little booby traps for themselves and their children. How many complexes are equipped with standard fire fighting equipment, how many have provisions for fire escapes?

When Kahlil Gibran wrote about houses that would not only house bodies but souls as well, he surely did not have an apartment in mind.



What's on today.

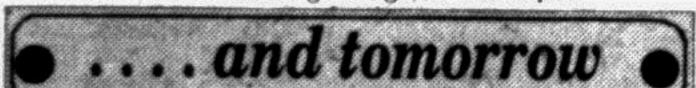
Cultural evening: The Cultural Department of the Russian Federation in cooperation with the Serov Academy of Fine Arts has arranged a discussion and cultural programme on the occasion of Martyred Intellectuals' Day. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre (House-510, Road-7, Dhanmondi). Time: 5:30 pm. Chief guest: Justice KM Sobhan. Special guests: Prof Abdus Selim and Sergei Erameyev. First Secretary of the Embassy.

Shilpakala Academy discussion: The academy will hold a discussion in observance of the Martyred Intellectuals' Day. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 5.30 pm. Chief guest: DU Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Mid-Town: The club's weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka South: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International Time: 5:30 pm.

HR discussion: The Amnesty International Bangladesh Trade Union Group and the Amnesty International Women Trade Union Group will hold a discussion. The programme will be held as part of the Amnesty International Bangladesh's week-long programme to mark the 46th Human Rights Declaration. Venue: 81, Shegun Bagicha. Time: 3pm.



Seminar: A regional seminar will be held under the aus pices of the Economics Deptt. JU and the Bangladesh Economics Association. Venue: Social Science Faculty gallery. Time: 10 am.

Bangladesh to observe tourism year in 97

Bangladesh will observe Tourism Month in 1995 and 1996, and Tourism Year in 1997 to promote tourism in the country, reports UNB.

This was decided at a meeting held at the head office of the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) yesterday with State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul

Mannan in the chair. The meeting was told that the observance of Tourism Month-1994 had created more ourism awareness among the people of the country and as a result, more foreign tourists would be motivated to visit

Bangladesh. Secretary of the Civil Avia tion and Tourism Ministry Noor Uddin Al-Masood, Chairman of BPC Abdus Samad Bhuiyan, Managing Director of Bangladesh Biman Ahbab Ahmed Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Air Commodore M Shamser Ali and other officials were present at the meeting.

Suspension of city power supply from tomorrow

Power supply will remain suspended from 8 am to 4 pm in different areas of the city. beginning Thursday, reports

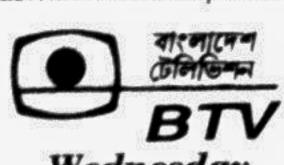
nouncement, Thursday's power suspension will cover the areas extending from Gulshan Road 112 to 133, eastern areas of Gulshan Avenue, Kawran Bazar-WASA water pump, areas from Songargaon Hotel crossing to FDC's new gate. Jatrabari Shahid Faruk Road, Mirpur Sec-1/E/G block.

The Haricharan Roy Road and Pallabi north feeder will come under power suspension

From Saturday to December 21: At Uttara sector-5, sector-1, and sector-3 partly.

On Sunday: Mirpur Ahmednagar, Buddhijibi Shaheed Minar Road, Banani Road 25, 27 and Rd No. 4 including Japanese Embassy, Banani

From Sunday to December 22: Whole Mohammadpur area. Asad Avenue, Lalmatia, Ring Road Adabor and Mirpur Road



The employees also held a rally presided over by Mir Ahmed Hossain, president of the association and urged the government to meet their demands and materialise com mitment made by the authori

BTV non-gazetted

employees observe

strike

the Bangladesh Television

yesterdays observed a day-long

A press release of the TV

strike to press home their 15-

Non-Gazetted Employees Wel-

fare Association said the work-

stoppage, however, exempted

the telecast of programmes of

the President. Prime Minister.

visiting VIPs and news as well

as security and essential

point demand, reports UNB.

Non-gazetted employees of

The press release said that they also expressed the resolve to go ahead with their agitation programmes if their demands were not met

According to an official an-

The Narsingdi Pourasava will also come under power suspension on Thursday at the same hours.

Friday from 8 am to 4pm.

On Saturday at same hours, there will be no electricity at K Baneriee road, Shah Ali Bagh areas extending from Gulshan Road No. 20 to 30, western side of Gulshan and central avenue, survey of Bangladesh office building. E Testuribazar, and Tejgaon Science College.

gravevard.

Wednesday 4.30 Opening

4.45 Sports programme News in Bangla 5.25 Moner Katha 6.00 Banaphul Open University

7.00 7.25 Tagore songs News in Bangla 8 00 8.25 Jamabhumi Mini series: The Girl 9.00

From Future 10 00 News in English 10 30 Kathamala

1140 Announcement of tomorrow's programme 11 45 Closing

11.30 Khabar/The News



Discussants at a memorial meeting on Jahanara Imam at Bakul Tala of the Institute of Fine Arts in the city yesterday. The Shamilitya Sangskritik Jote organised the programme. - Star photo

V-Day programmes

sions of patriotic songs in vari-

hold at a cultural session at its

premises in the afternoon

while the Department of Mass Communication will organise

exhibition of documentary

films and sessions of patriotic songs and gano sangit at

Ramna Batamul as well as in

the open school fields across

Discussions and symposia,

highlighting the War of

Liberation and importance of

using local goods to achieve

self-reliance in all spheres of national life, will be organised

throughout the country. Mela

and exhibition of domestic

goods will be held in Dhaka

and all other important dis-

and Radio Bangladesh will put

on air special programmes

while the national dailies will

publish special supplements

highlighting the significance of

mentary films will be screened

in all mosques, temples,

churches and pagodas solicit-

ing peace and progress of the

proved diet will be supplied to

the inmates of hospitals, jails,

orphanages, children homes

and institute centres on the

ladesh missions abroad re-

ceptions will be arranged to

celebrate the national Victory

islands of the capital will be

decorated with miniature flags

In Bangabhaban and Bang-

The main roads and their

for the school children.

In all cinema halls, docu-

Special prayers will be held

Besides, special and im-

The Bangladesh Television

trict towns of the country.

the country.

the occasion.

occasion.

The Bangla Academy will

ous important city places.

The government has drawn up an elaborate programme to celebrate the Victory Day on December 16, an official handout said yesterday, reports

The programme of the day. a public holiday, will begin with a 31-gun salute and hoisting of national flag atop all public and private buildings. Illumination in the evening will also mark the occasion.

The President will place wreaths on behalf of the nation at the National mausoleum for martyrs at Savar and the Prime Minister will also lay wreaths

A colourful Shishu-Kishore rally will be held at the Dhaka National Stadium. Prime Minister Begun Khaleda Zia will inspect the march past and take salute.

The members of the band parties of Bangladesh Army Navy and Air Force, Bangladesh Rifles, Police, Ansars-VDP and civil defence will play bands at the selected places of the capi-

The Naval ships will remain open for public display at Chittagong, Khulna and Mongla ports, Sadarghat, Narayanganj and Barisal IWTA terminals from 3 pm to 5 pm on the day. In all district and thana head quarters executing Dhaka district, colourful march past will be held where Police. Ansars-VDP, Civil Defence and Boys Scouts, Girls Guide and BNCC

will take part. Rallies, sports competitions and boat races will also be arranged for school and college students in all district and thana sadars excepting Dhaka.

In observance of the day, cultural functions will be arranged. The Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, from its roving trucks, will render ses-

Mukarram Hussain

Memorial Lecture

By DU Correspondent

ssain Khundkar Memorial Lec-

mistry. Dhaka University was

held at the lecture theatre of

the Khundkar Biggyan Bhaban

of the Faculty of Pharma

ceutical Science, Kanazawa

University, Japan, delivered

the memorial lecture titled

"Total synthesis of Erythrina

Dhaka University, Professor

Emajuddin Ahmed, attended

Vice-Chancellor recalled the

contribution of renowned

scholars and teachers of the

university specially Professor

Mukarram Hussain Khundkar

to promoting education and

The Chairman of the Che-

mistry Department, Professor

M Giasuddin Ahmed, presided

research in chemistry

over the function.

The Vice Chancellor of the

In his inaugural speech, the

Alkaloide in Chiral Forms".

the function as chief guest.

Professor Yoshisuke Tsude

in the city yesterday.

The 13th Mukarram Hu-

ture of the Department of Che-

CAITR confce Bangladeshi engr

to mark the day.

awarded Farhad Ahmed, an engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), has been awarded Rodney Voughan Memorial Prize' for presenting the best paper titled 'Impact on non-motorised transport on the rural household's activity-travel pattern in Bangladesh' at the 16th conference of Australian Institutes of Transport Research (CAITR), reports BSS.

The conference was held in Adelaide, Australia, during first week of this month, where Farhad's paper was adjudged the best out of 40 papers presented there.

This is for the first time that a Bangladeshi engineer has received such an international award.

Currently, Farhad Ahmed is pursuing his graduate studies in the University of South Aus-

Weather

Temperature may fall

The mild cold, which is sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Mymensingh and Tangail. may continue for another 48 hours over Sylhet region. reports UNB.

Met Office said dry weather with further fall by 1-2 degree Celsius in night temperature is likely to prevail throughout the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

Yesterday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 25 degrees Celsius and the minimum was 12.4 degrees while the country's highest temperature was recorded 27 in Teknaf and the lowest 8 degrees in Chuadanga.

Percentage of humidity was 57 in the morning and 65 in the evening. The sun sets today at 5 14 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:33

'Caretaker govt against spirit of democracy'

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain has said the current political crisis cannot be resolved without the sincerity of those political parties which created it, reports UNB.

"In parliamentary democracy, the question of caretaker government is not only unconstitutional, but also against the spirit of democracy," he told a party meeting at Daudkandi yesterday.

The minister maintained that a people's government could not be replaced by a selected government which virtually has no responsibility and accountability.

Referring to the People's Representation (Amendment) Bill, 1994 passed by Parliament making provision for issuance of voters' identity cards, he said it will be a milestone in holding free and fair elections. This bears a great testimony

of the BNP government's sincerity in establishing an independent election system, he

Dr Mosharraf referred to

the acceptance of national interim government by BNP and said, "We're always ready to resolve any issue within the framework of the Constitution."

He said those who are threatening to resign from Parliament to jeopardise the hard-earned democracy are betraying with the people's

mandate.

Presided over by Daudkandi thana BNP president, the meeting was also addressed by Comilla district BNP president Obaidul Hoq Bhuiyan, district Jubadal convenor K M I Khalil and thana BNP general secretary Shamsul Hoq.

Shishu Park open on Victory Day

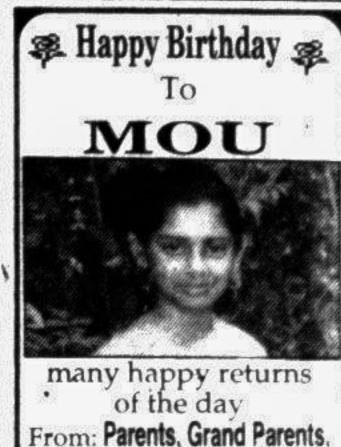
By Staff Correspondent

The Shishu Park at Suhrawardi Udyan in the capital will remain open from 2.30 pm to 7.30 pm on the Victory Day, December 16, said a press release of the Dhaka City Corporation.

Exhibition by disadvantaged children An exhibition of art works

done by disadvantaged slum children will be held on December 15 at 2:30 pm at Rayerbazar Day Care Centre. House No 42. Zigatola. Organised by the Terre des

hommes (Switzerland), an orgamisation working for the disadvantaged children, the art works will cover different child issues and the Liberation period of Bangladesh.



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