

Dhaka Day by Day

City's Wingy Scavengers

by Goutam Prosad Das

Crow and ugliness are sometimes synonymous. At least this is so at the sub-conscious level of our mind. All of us are habituated to hate this bird because of its harsh voice, plundering habits and shrewdness. It is infamous for its notoriety. Younger kids are quite scared of this creature. You send them to a nearby bakery for some fast food, they are likely to come back crying. Half of the item has been snatched away by this clever bird. That means, the money behind the purchase has gone down the drain completely, for you will not consume the remainder that has been touched by the nasty creature. To catch sight of the bird is not that easy in the rural areas. In fact the villages are not their ideal hub because of non-availability of rotten things — their most favourite delicacy. But in cities they are seen quite frequently rummaging through dustbins, drains and stinking garbage piled up on road sides. If you happen to be unlucky to have a keen observation on birds, you just scatter some foods, preferably fried rice (muri) at the courtyard of your home and wait for some time. A flock of crows will appear from nowhere and devour the stocks within minutes, making the entire spot squalid and malodorous.



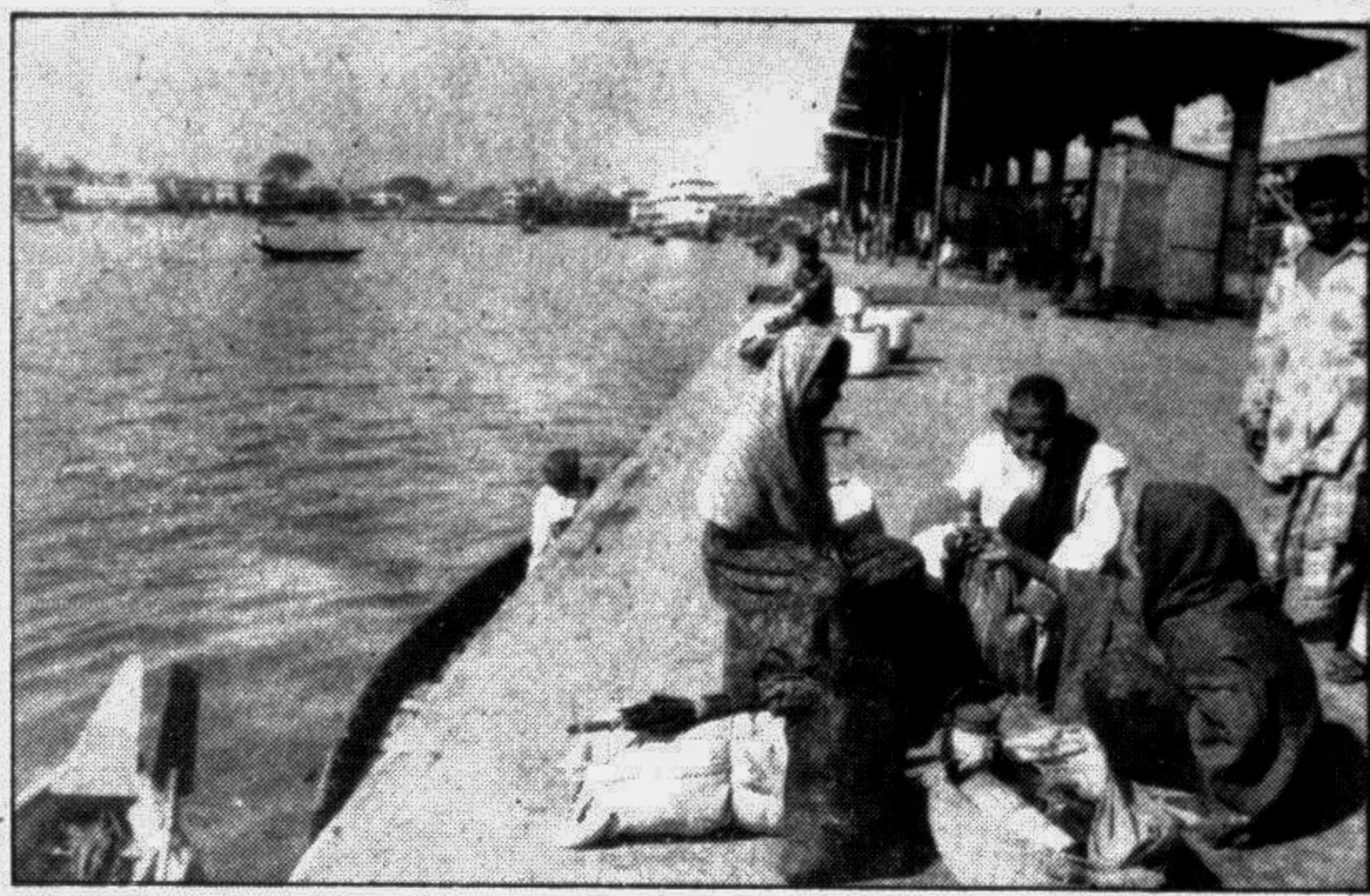
flurry of impending dangers and physical indisposition. The 'He-Crow' (raven) has become somewhat invisible now-a-days. You will rarely come across this jet black, hairy and harsh-voiced creature. Perhaps no research/survey has been carried out why this species is decreasing in number day by day.

Crows are very quick learners. When electrification began in underdeveloped areas, many of them had to sacrifice lives while sitting on the power cables unknowingly. But soon they mastered the art of sitting on the power lines. Their protest against sudden death caused by electrocution and bullets of catapult is so vociferous that if you have an ear, you will feel how rebellious and defiant they are against man-made evils. The mourning and wailing over a corpse of their species is well known to us. Unlike people who are somewhat under social compulsion to shed a few drops of crocodile's tear on the sudden demise of some neighbours and distant relatives, the crows are quite free of such pretentious acts.

Sometimes they embrace a 'do or die' situation. When two crows start fighting with each other over a piece of meal or anything, it seems that they are imbued with a "killer instinct" and, neither of them seems to be a victor or a vanquished. The interesting thing is that no emissary or peace broker is invited to call a halt to the duel. It is up to the 'feuding' birds to decide whether they will bring about a ceasefire or continue fighting till death.

As scavengers they extend their help to eradicate various harmful worms and insects. But the fact is we never admit it, because it is ugly in our eyes and does pierce our ears with their raucous caws.

People hold this bird in sheer contempt. It can initiate a bad-start to your daily routine. You are out towards your workplace, clean shaven and clad in your best suits. Suddenly you may become the victim of their perfect line and length. What! Faeces released by this creature in tree branches or electric poles have showered your whole outfit. You curse them unrestrained. The embarrassment is not finished yet. You go home disgruntled and many will treat the incident as 'onionous' and give you a



The old man and his family having a long wait to board a launch at city's Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday during the 6-hour long country-wide roads, railway and water ways blockade programme of the three major opposition parties. — Star photo

'SAARC countries should share their technology'

Leading technology experts of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Bhutan yesterday stressed that the SAARC countries should share their technology for mutual benefit, reports UNB.

Addressing the certificate giving ceremony of a regional training course in the city, they also laid emphasis on working together for fostering promotion of science and technology to achieve competitiveness, the vital edge of market economy.

"Let us communicate each other and identify areas of co-operation. Let us put our collective wisdom to overcome our technological limitations," said Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Prof M Shahjahan.

The Institute of Appropriate Technology (IAT) of the BUET and the Ministry of Science and Technology jointly organised the course on "Technology Assessment and Technology Diffusion."

The SAARC-Japan Special Fund at the SAARC Secretariat sponsored the seven-day training course participated by 31 technology experts of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Bhutan.

The BUET VC observed that the issue of technological development is crucial for survival as well as for sustainable development of the developing countries.

He said the SAARC countries can benefit from each other's experiences in evolving appropriate strategies and promoting technology-based development.

"Let's hope the spirit of

SAARC will enable us to foster our technological cooperation and contribute to solving manifold development problems facing SAARC countries," he said.

Dr Syed Mohammad Abdul Hai, secretary of the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR), said most of the technologies used by the regional nations are borrowed from other developed countries.

"They do not want the users really understand the technology," he said, stressing the need for training of experts, scientists, scholars and workers of the regional countries.

The Jambey Dorjee of Research, Extension and Irrigation Division of the Agriculture Ministry of Bhutan emphasised the importance of coordinated assessment and diffusion of technology in the regional countries.

Prof M Nazrul Islam and Prof M Nurul Islam of the IAT and Bangladeshi participant Dr Mohammad Kabirullah also addressed the function at the BUET council building.

BDRCS AGM Dec 27

The annual general meeting (AGM) of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) will be held at 9 am on December 27 at the auditorium of the nursing school attached to the Holy Family Hospital, BSS reports quoting a BDRCS press release yesterday.

Call for concerted efforts to safeguard independence

Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called for concerted efforts of all to safeguard national independence and sovereignty, and institutionalise democracy, reports UNB.

He told a Victory Day discussion meeting in the city that the Liberation War of 1971 was fought with the dream of establishing people's fundamental rights which could be ensured by giving democracy and institutional shape.

DUTA concerns over political stalemate

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) yesterday expressed deep concern over present political crisis, reports UNB.

It also called upon all political leaders to reach a unanimous decision to hold a free-fair election and to ensure economic emancipation by giving democracy an institutional shape.

DUTA President Prof Shahadat Ali and General Secretary Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique, in a joint statement issued last night hoped that the leaders, irrespective of party affiliation, would show their willingness, intelligence and foresight to resolve the crisis.

Bangladeshi arts festival in India delight audience

The four-day 'Bangladesh Festival of Arts in India' ended its first phase of performances with the staging of dance drama 'Mohua' at New Delhi's Mavalankar auditorium Friday evening, according to a message received here, reports BSS.

The two-hour drama showed a glimpse of the rich culture of Bangladesh to the packed auditorium of a select Indian audience. Rizwana Chowdhury Banya's Tagore songs, Ferdouse Ara's Nazrul songs, Farida Perveen's Lalon songs and Shubir Nandi's modern numbers were also appreciated.

The four-day Delhi stint was part of the two-week itinerary of the three performing groups from Bangladesh who are in India under the Indo-Bangladesh cultural agreement.

The 70-member group will perform in different cities like Lucknow, Chandigarh, Calcutta, Bhubaneswar, Siliguri, Bardwan and Patna.

The festival was opened jointly by Bangladesh Minister of State for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum and Indian Deputy Minister for Education Kumari Selja on December 20 at Mavalankar auditorium. The two ministers, in their speeches, laid stress on more exchange of cultural groups between the two countries.

Power suspension notice of DESA

Power supply will remain suspended in different areas of the city from 9 am to 4 pm during the next few days, BSS reports quoting a DESA press release yesterday.

The areas are Uttara Sector number-4, Uttara T&T Bhaban and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar SPARSO office tomorrow, December 26, Elephant Road, Noor Mansion, Chandnichak, Hotel Sheraton, Kawranbazar, Hatirpool, Paribagh officers' quarters, from Shahabagh Crossing to Hotel Sonargaon in Airport Road (on December 26 and 27), Banani road numbers 1, 3 and 5, Ahmednagar Paikpara, Tejgaon IA, Nakhlaipara (including Old MP Hostel), Metropolitan Hospital on December 27, Kadamtali from December 27 to 29, Mirpur Trust Modern Hospital, Mirpur Zoo, Botanical Garden and BAF Radar on December 28, Banani (road numbers 4, 6, 10, 13, 15, 17 and 19) and Banani Bazar on December 28 and 29, Khilkhet Rehabilitation area from December 28 to January 1 and Distillery Road from December 26 to 28.

Dr S K Mahapatra also spoke on the occasion.

Prof Jahan Ara Begum, during her stay there, called on Human Resources Minister Arjun Singh and discussed with him the implementation of India-Bangladesh cultural agreement.

Kumari Selja called on the visiting minister at her Ashdka hotel suite and discussed bilateral cultural matters. She hosted a dinner in honour of Prof Jahan Ara.

Jewel Aich, the world famous Bangladeshi magician, performed on Wednesday. The audience, a large number of them children, held their breath when Jewel cut his wife into two and then she was found to be in a single piece. She was also suspended in the air with the help of a slender pole. A young boy's head was separated from his body. When the contraption was opened, the boy was seen standing. Jewel's other tricks, fresh and done with his usual smile on his face, were enjoyed by the audience.

The following evening 'Nagorik's Mukhosh' was staged. The superb performances of Neema, Abul Hayat and Asaduzzaman Noor and the conflict in the theme based on the War of Independence delighted the audience.

Weather

No change in temperature

Chances of light rain is likely over the region of Chittagong while dry weather may prevail elsewhere over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office forecasts weather may remain partly cloudy over the regions of Chittagong, Noakhali, Barisal and Patuakhali during the period.

No appreciable change in the night temperature is expected over the country during the period but weathermen predicted a fall in the temperature in the coming week.

Country's highest temperature 29.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at Sitakundi and the lowest 8.7 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets today at 5.18 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.39 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded yesterday in different parts of the country are given below:

City	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.8	9.9	59	68
Mymensingh	27.3	11.0	66	73
Chittagong	29.3	12.6	78	62
Cox's Bazar	27.5	15.0	67	69
Sylhet	28.2	13.8	66	55
Rajshahi	27.2	10.0	79	68



Sunday

- 4:30 Opening announcement
- Programme summary
- 4:45 Shikha Dikha
- 5:10 Sangbad
- 5:25 Tom and Jerry kids show
- 5:40 Sports programme
- 6:30 Mayed Jannya
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Tagore songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Aboshor
- 9:00 The Sword of Tipu Sultan
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Surer Bhubone
- 11:30 Khabar/The news
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- Closing announcement
- Close down

47 arrested

Police rounded up 47 people, including 13 wanted criminals, from different parts of the city in last 24 hours, reports UNB.

Mostafiz greets S Korean FM

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman has felicitated Kong Nho Myong on his appointment as Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, reports UNB.

In a message of felicitation, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister wished his South Korean counterpart every success in office and stressed the need for further strengthening the close ties of friendship between the two countries.

Art competition for children

The Foundation International School will organise a two-day art competition for school students on December 30-31 in connection with the observance of the Victory Day, reports BSS.

The competition will be held at the school premises at 767 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi residential area at 9 am on both the days. The competition will open for all school students of the country.

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