

The city we live in

Star Report



Some years ago the then government prided itself for having introduced a national drug policy (NDP) that was reportedly acclaimed the world over. Hundreds of familiar medicines and brands were banned either because of their harmful effects or lack of any true medicinal worth. Action followed against those not abiding by the guidelines laid down in the NDP. Yet, despite all efforts of the authorities to streamline the health services, a vast multitude of the gullible public still remains vulnerable to the sales pitches of unscrupulous quacks like these who ply their self-patented panaceas right under the nose of the authorities in various parts of the capital as elsewhere across this land. Calling themselves Hakim, Kabiraj, Ayurved and what not, these self-styled medicine men peddle sundry prescriptions, potions and exotic elixirs to the illiterate passersby. The language these quacks use to promote their wares often ranges from the risqué to the ridiculous. Many a parent waiting with grown up children at a busy bus terminal or launch ghat, or a brother accompanying a sister, are subjected to no little embarrassment by the vivid, vulgar descriptions of maladies and their symptoms which are ceaselessly blaring over roadside loudspeakers. A rare herb, a divine cure discovered in a dream, or the oil or extract from an unlucky animal or two are touted as sure shot remedies for any and every possible illness afflicting a human being. And business by no means dull. The upshot, however, is that such proliferating malpractice can often lead to tragic consequences for the desperate chap who digs into his pockets to buy a vial for himself or his loved one.

Our cameras focus here on (A) A busy gathering in front of one roadside kabiraji stall near the busy Gulistan area in the city centre; (B) A veteran mixing his famous formula at Sadarghat area and (C) A medicinal herbs specialist at Farmgate area. — Star photographs by A K M Mohsin.

Govt decision hailed

Boalia Union Parishad Bastabayan Parishad hailed the recent government decision for inclusion of Boalia, Bakhar-kathi, Tabirakathi and Imam-kathi mouzas with Bakerganj thana of Barisal district for administrative and communication conveniences, reports BSS.

The Boalia Union Parishad Bastabayan Parishad representatives said that the government decision followed the order of the High Court Division given in 1992. They said that because of court cases the development of the four mouzas suffered in the past.

Greater Noakhali Samity polls

Noted industrialist Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain was elected president of the Greater Noakhali Samity, Dhaka for 1995-97 in the elections of the samity held yesterday, says a press release of the samity.

Besides, a total of eight vice-presidents and twenty-one executive committee members were elected in the polls.

Opposition MPs urged to come back to Parliament

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Ghalib Hossain yesterday said that the solution of present political problem could be achieved only by dialogue, reports BSS.

He called upon the members of the Opposition to come back to Parliament saying that no solution would be achieved by resigning from Parliament.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a public meeting at the Sreepur Degree College ground on the occasion of laying foundation of the new administrative building of the college. The building will be constructed at a cost of Tk 25.50 lakh and will be completed by the June 1995.

Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Gazipur the meeting was addressed, among others, by senior vice chairman of BNP and member of the standing committee Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui as special guest, principal of the college Kazi Anwarul Islam, Mashur Rahman Khan Titu, Sirajul Islam and Abdul

Motaleb. The law minister said education is the gateway to development and no development is possible if people are not educated. Referring to the target of 'Education For All' by the year 2000, he said government has allocated Tk 3500 crore for education.

He urged the people to come forward to make at least a village free from illiteracy in each union of the country.

Facilities Department has constructed 16 educational institutions in Sreepur thana during the last three years spending more than Tk 1.33 crore.

The law minister called upon the people to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to continue the politics of development and production in the country.

The minister, earlier, laid the foundation stone of three storied administration building of Sreepur Degree College and offered munajat.

Students urged to build themselves worthy citizens

Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain yesterday called upon the students to build up themselves as worthy citizens of the country by devoting to studies, reports BSS.

He was addressing a rally of students at Masuma Khanam Secondary Girls' School premises in Bhola Saturday.

State Minister for Irrigation and Water Development Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan and Prof Peroza Begum also spoke on the occasion.

Describing the students as the future of the nation, the minister said present government had been making relentless efforts to establish the student community as an effective human resource.

Referring to the highest allocation in the budget in the education sector the minister said the government has given top priority on educating the total population.

Akbar said the programmes of free education up to class ten for the girl students and the compulsory primary education were being implemented for the development of the women community.

Foundation of Pubail-Joydevpur Road laid

State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan yesterday said the government is giving more emphasis on development of modern communication system all over the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Pubail-Joydevpur Road at the Nilapara High School premises in Gazipur. He also laid the foundation stones of three bridges on the road.

Presided over by Md Harunur Rashid the function was also addressed by the BNP president of the local municipality area, Halimuzzaman Nani, Joydevpur thana BNP president Dr Shahabuddin and Pubail Union Parishad chairman Adzaz Rahman Sharish.

The road will establish direct connection between Tongi and Gazipur and reduce distance by 18 kms between the two places.

The estimated cost for construction of the 8.4-km road and the bridges will be Taka 2.5 crore.

Earlier, the state minister laid the foundation stone of the Shaheed Rawshan Ali Road in Gazipur.

Call to observe 'Hatred Day' on Dec 29

By Staff Correspondent

Seventeen teachers of Dhaka University in a joint statement yesterday called upon the pro-liberation socio-cultural and political organisations to observe the 'National Hatred Day' on December 29.

The Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee has been observing December 29, the day Jamaat-e-Islami announced Gohar Azam its Ameer three years ago, as the National Hatred Day against the war criminals since 1991.

The teachers also extended support to the programmes of the Nirmul Committee on the day.

The signatories to the statement include Dr Md Hossain Mansur, Prof Shahadat Ali, Dr Arefin Siddique, Dr Syed Humayun Akhter, Khandakar Mustahidur Rahman and Ajoy Roy.

The Motiheel thana unit of the Nirmul Committee yesterday held a workers' meeting to prepare for the 'Hatred Day'.

Chhatra Shibir expresses solidarity with Chechen Muslim

Islamic Chhatra Shibir expressed solidarity with the Chechen Muslims fighting the Russian military aggression to protect their independence and sought international action to stop it, reports UNB.

Addressing a rally in front of the National Press Club yesterday afternoon, ICS leaders called upon the Muslim countries to take united action to save the Chechens and their independence.

They made an appeal to all OIC countries for severing diplomatic relations with Russia and imposing economic blockade on it.

"It's an established fact that Chechnya is an independent republic and all countries and the UN must recognise it," said Rafiqul Islam Khan, president of the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

He castigated the UN Secretary General for his observation that the fighting, now spreading along the Caucasus range, between the Chechens and Russians is an internal affair of Russia.

Condemning the Russian military operation, killing the Chechen Muslims and destroying the breakaway republic, the Shibir leader said Moscow would have to pay dearly for it.

"Russia will have to vacate Chechnya in the long run as it had to quit Afghanistan in a humiliating way," he said.

Shibir's central vice-presidents Hamidur Rahman Azad and Sheikh Qamrul Alam and city unit president Enamul Haque also addressed the rally. It was followed by a procession which paraded the city streets.

Sanskritik Jote pleads to end political impasse

The Sammilita Sanskritik Jote yesterday urged the Government and the Opposition to avert the path of confrontation and end the political impasse through negotiation, reports UNB.

"The scope for resolving the political crisis through negotiation has not yet exhausted," said the jote in a statement with a strong plea for an amicable solution of the eight-month-long political deadlock. The combine of cultural activists said the differences on modalities of ensuring free and fair elections and institutionalising democracy had pushed the country into a grave crisis and deadlock.

What's on today

Seminar on modelling: A seminar on 'Modelling Art: The Context of Bangladesh' will be held under the auspices of the Perspective Media Services. Renowned model Bibi Russel will present the keynote paper and Sayeed Ahmed will preside. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 5:00 pm.

Training course on bio-tech: A two-week training course on advanced bio-technology will begin. Organiser: Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) in collaboration with Third World Academy of Science. Venue: IFST seminar room, BCSIR. Time: 10:00 am. Chief guest: State Minister of Science and Technology, Prof M A Mannan.

Dhaka Film Festival: German film Deutschstunde (German Lesson) will be screened. The Rainbow Film Society has organised the festival. Venue: Goethe-Institut (23, Dhanmondi, Road-2). Time: 5:00 pm.

FPAB: The Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) will hold its annual general meeting (AGM) and elections to the national executive committee. Venue: Shaheed Majluddin Auditorium. Time: 10:00 am.

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

JASAS: An emergency meeting of the Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) will be held. Time: 4:00 pm. Venue: BNP Central office.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal: An emergency meeting will be held. Time: 6:00 pm. Venue: BNP central office.

....and tomorrow

Discussion: The Sanket Sangskritik Gosthi, a cultural troupe, has organised a discussion and cultural function in memory of Sheikh Lutfur Rahman. Venue: National Museum auditorium (children's). Time: 4:00 pm.

Christmas celebrated in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: Holy Christmas, was celebrated in the port city and elsewhere in the district with traditional enthusiasm and due solemnity, reports BSS.

Members of the Christian community celebrated the day through day-long programmes which included singing of carols in different churches, exchange of greetings, pleasantries, distribution of Christmas cakes and decoration of Christmas trees.

The churches of Saing Mary's Bethelhem at Jamal Khan Road and old churches at KC Dey Road, Patharghata and Chandgaon were also illuminated on the occasion.

The Christian villages wore a festive look and merriment and enthusiasm generated since midnight last night with the ringing of bell from the churches. Special prayers were offered in all churches seeking peace and prosperity of the nation and as well as global peace.

Local dailies published articles highlighting the significance of the day, while Radio Bangladesh, Chittagong put up a lyrical drama titled 'Muktidatar Janmatithi' tonight under the auspices of Youngman Christian Association.

In Narayanganj, the holy Christmas was celebrated there by the Christian community with jubilation and merriment.

Male, female and children of the Christian community attended in new dresses of their best joined a large congregation at St Paul Church at Chashara and praised the Lord Jesus Christ in their prayer.

The church was decorated with colourful crib and Christmas carol was played during the prayer.

A similar congregation was held at Charargop Baptist Church in the morning.

The community members exchanged greetings with each other saying merry Christmas.

57 held in city

Police rounded up 57 people yesterday on various charges from different parts of the city. UNB reports quoting a DMP press release.

Among the arrested seven were wanted criminals, one for dacoity, three under the Special Power Act and four for stealing.

Police also picked up five people from Mirpur and Donia area in the city for their alleged involvement in hijacking. The accused were produced before court.

Discussion on Victory Day

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof. Jahan Ara Begum yesterday said a united, educated and responsible nation was essential to make the hard earned independence more fruitful, reports BSS.

She was addressing a discussion in observance of the Victory Day and the 4th founding anniversary of Kumotuli Samaj Kalyan Sangha in the city. The function was also addressed by Khawza Mohammad Halim, Mohammad Eupus and Mohammad Giasuddin.

The state minister said "we can't expect a developed nation keeping the women folk uneducated and dependent on others." She called upon all to extend their helping hands to the distressed women for flourishing of their talents. She called upon students and youths to devote themselves with the inspiration of the Liberation War.

The discussion meeting was rounded off with a cultural show.

JASAS founding anniversary

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) has planned a two-day programme beginning tomorrow to observe its 16th founding anniversary, reports BSS.

The leaders and workers of the organisation will offer *fateha* and *munajat* and place wreaths at the mazar of late president Ziaur Rahman on Tuesday at 9:00 am. A *milad mahfil* and discussion will also be held at the mazar premises under the auspices of the city unit of JASAS.

On Wednesday, a discussion will be held at 4:00 pm which will be followed by a cultural function.

The press release said all branches of JASAS across the country have been requested to observe the founding anniversary in a befitting manner.

8 arrested in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: A special squad of the detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) in three separate raids arrested 8 prostitutes from three residential hotels under Kotwali thana here last night, reports BSS.

According to a CMP press release today, seven persons including three hotel boys and one manager were also arrested in this connection.

Four prostitutes were arrested from Hotel Court View, three from Hotel Atthee and one from Hotel Safura.

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Monday 26th December

(All programmes in local time)



9:00am BBC World Service News
9:25 The Money Programme 10:00
BBC World Service News 10:25
Food and Drink 11:00 BBC World
Service News 11:25 The Money
Programme 12:00noon BBC World
Service News 12:30 World Review
94 1:00 BBC World Service News
1:25 Top Gear 2:00 BBC World
News Headlines 2:05 Assignment
3:00 BBC World Service News 3:25
The Money Programme 4:00 BBC
World News Headlines 4:05
Holiday 4:24 BBC World News
Headlines 4:25 Italy Means
Business 5:00 BBC World Service
News Hour 6:00pm BBC World
News Headlines 6:05 Travels 7:00
BBC World Service News Hour
8:00 BBC World Service News Hour
9:00 BBC World Service News 9:10
World Business Report 9:25 Food
and Drink 10:00 BBC World News
Headlines 10:05 Horizon 11:00 BBC
World Service News 11:25 The
Money Programme 12:00am BBC
World Service News Hour 1:00 BBC
World Service News 1:25 The
Clothes Show 2:00 BBC World
News Headlines 2:05 Assignment
3:00 BBC World Service News 3:25
Top Gear 4:00 BBC World Service
News 4:25 World Business Report
5:00 BBC World Service News 5:25
World Business Report 6:00 BBC
World Service News 6:25 World
Review 94 7:00 BBC World Service
News 7:25 World Business Report
8:00 BBC World Service News 8:25
World Review 94



6:00am Mr Roger's Neighbourhood
6:30 Sharky & George 7:00
Kidstreet 7:30 Size Small 8:00 G I
Joe 8:30 Ciao Italia 9:00 Aerobics
Oz Style 9:30 The Sullivans 10:00
Donahue 11:00 Videofashion News:
Fall For The Italians 11:30
Aerobics Oz Style 12:00noon
Neighbours 12:30 Santa Barbara
1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 2:00
The Oprah Winfrey Show 3:00
Riviera 3:30 Ciao Italia 4:00
Aerobics Oz Style 4:30 The
Sullivans 5:00 Small Wonder 5:30
Robotech 6:00 Teenage Mutant
Ninja Turtles 6:30 Batman 7:00
Videofashion News: The Italians
Regimes 7:30 Neighbours 8:00 M
A S H 8:30 The Ruth Rendell
Christmas Mystery 9:00 No Crying
He Makes 10:30 The Bold & The
Beautiful 11:00 Santa Barbara
12:00 The (New) Twilight Zone
12:30 M A S H 1:00 Remington
Steele 2:00 Videofashion News:
Fall For The Italian 2:30
Neighbours 3:00 Mini Series:
Cellini: The Flying Doctors 5:00
Richmond Hill



7:00am By Demand 7:30 VJ Nonte
8:00 Re-wind Year Special 8:30 VJ
Sophia 9:00 The Ride 9:30 VJ
Trey Farley 10:00 The Vibe 10:30
VJ Ruby 11:00 By Demand Year
End Special 11:30 VJ Nonte 12:00
The Ride 12:30 VJ Trey Farley
3:00 Big Bang VJ Petrina 4:00 The
Vibe 4:30 VJ Ruby 5:00 Bill Board
US Countdown 7:00 By Demand
7:30 VJ Nonte Year End Special
8:30 Over The Edge Year End
Special 9:00 BPL Oye! Year End
Special 10:00 Bill Board US
Countdown 12:00 Sigaw Manila
1:00 The Ride 1:30 VJ Trey Farley
4:00 By Demand 4:30 VJ Nonte
5:00 Jump Start 5:30 VJ Rick



6:00am World Pro Figure Skating
Championship 1994 From USA
8:00 Primebodies-15 8:30 Gillette
World Sports Special-53 9:00
Trans World Sport 10:30 Best Of
Men's Tennis in 1994 12:00noon
Heck The Score in... 94 1:30 Best
Of The Japanese World Series
Baseball 4:00 Primebodies-16 4:30
Talking Baseball 5:00 Heck The
Score in... 94 6:00 The Best Of The
1994 Wimming Champ 6:00 Best Of
The Golf 8:00 Watersports World
9:00 Highlights 'The Ashes'
Australia v England 2nd Day, 2nd
Test 10:30 Best Of The Japanese
World Series Baseball 1:00 Heck
The Score in... 94 2:00 Talking
Baseball 2:30 The Best Of The 1994
Wimming Champ 3:30 Best Of The
Golf 4:30 Watersports World 5:30
Primebodies-16



2:30 HFF: Anpadh (Dharmendra,
Mala Sripa) 5:00 Galaxee 5:30
Cartoon 6:00 Celeste 6:30 Chitra
Prapancham 7:00 Anurodh Gan
7:30 Shesh Prashna 8:00 Mere
Ghar Ana Zindagi 8:30 Swayamvar
2000 9:00 South Parade 9:30
Campus 10:00 Lux Kya Scene Hai
11:00 Super Quiz 11:30 Bazaar Buzz
11:10 Close Up Anilashari 11:40
Tara 12:10 Andaz 12:40 Ek Minute
(Arabic) 1:10 Ghoomta Aaina 1:40
Infotainment 3:40 Close Down.