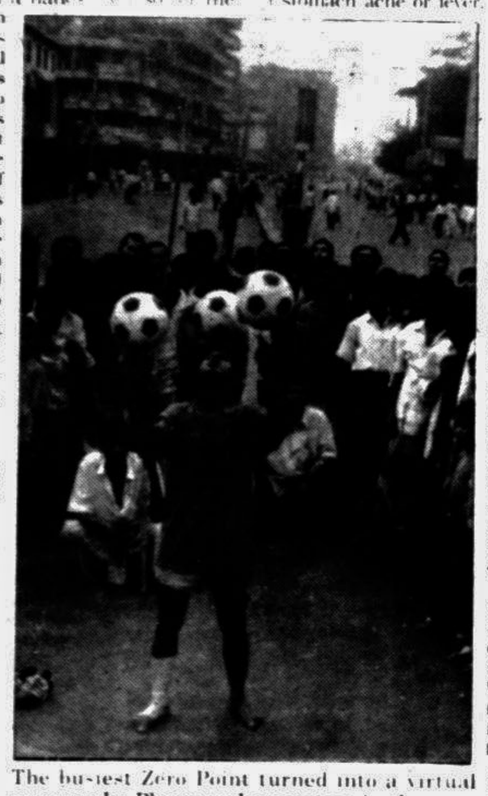
Dhaka Day by Day

Happy Hartals

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

A newcomer to Bangladesh may find such a heading quite shocking even irreverent considering the serious implications a hartal has on the development of a nation. Not so for the weary citizen for whom endless days of strikes called by some political party or the other is hardly surprising. So much so that he has taken strikes as a part of daily living as a sure thing in this world of uncertainty. There is after all, a certain comfort in the knowledge that when all the paid and unpaid leave has been used up one can always bank on a few days of 'half day' or 'dawn-to-dusk' strikes to do all the things one wishes to do on a holiday.

Being such resilient creatures, Dhaka's dwellers have developed several ways to make their 'hartal' memorable. A growing number of people use the hartal hours at a time for indulging in the sweetest of pastimes— sleeping. Others bring out their favourite novels to sit in the winter sun and enjoy uninterrupted hours of blissful reading.



The busiest Zero Point turned into a virtual promenade: Player and spectators in the open arena. — Star photo

Movie buffs of course, benefit the most from 'hartal' days. The video rental shops before the hartals are packed with eager customers who rent as many movies as they can to prepare for the 'big day'. Thrillers, old romantic movies and comedy are the hottest items. 'Complementary goods' such as potato crops, nuts, chanachoor and 'mishti' (sweets) are also stocked up for maximum hartal satisfaction.

For children an announcement of a hartal is the best news they can hear of. It means missing a dragging day of school without the pretense of a stomach ache or fever. It also means pursuing activities that are more pleasurable. A familiar scene on the streets of Dhaka are of kids using the empty roads as cricket fields or badminton courts.

The hartal season coinciding with the winter months, many ingenious citizens take this opportunity to go away from the city smog and crowds.

When strikes go on for consecutive days there are many who go off to the romantic sites of Cox's Bazar or Rangamati. Some even go on shopping sprees to as far as Bangkok or Singapore. Perhaps travel agencies will start to use these times for offering special 'hartal packages' to tourists.

The bewildered newcomer, however, may be slightly disillusioned when he is stuck in Zia International Airport for more than eight hours because his flight had to come in on a hartal day. And so, may not see the fringe benefits these days offer to others. For the latter group, the word 'hartal' is soon becoming synonymous with 'holiday'. So much so that a certain citizen is contemplating about bringing out cards that say 'Happy Hartals' to wish those who have learnt to make the most of the hartal day. This includes even the vandals who bash up cars for the fear of it.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally inaugurated gas production at the second well of the Feni Gas Field yesterday. — PID photo

'Govt policy aims at creating equal opportunity for all'

CHITTAGONG, Jan 8: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said her government's policy aimed at creating equal opportunity for all in government jobs giving priority on merit and eligibility, reports UNB.

"It is not possible to build an honest and enterprising administration without talent and competence," she said addressing the inaugural function of the 39th national convention of the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in the port city this evening.

Mentioning the unemployment problem, Begum Zia said the joblessness of country's higher-educated and skilled manpower is "very painful to all of us."

"You (engineers) must agree that it is not possible for us to ensure government job for all the new engineers. Keeping it in mind we have been creating self-employment opportunities for fresh and skilled professionals," she told the engineers.

The Prime Minister sought specific proposals from the Engineers' Institution in this respect and assured them of considering their proposals with due importance.

The objective of 22 years of struggle was to build a democratic polity in the country and also to achieve economic emancipation.

She said after restoration of democracy, her government was working relentlessly for the rapid economic emancipation of commonman. The government is implementing economic reform and universal education programmes, and has also undertaken measures to achieve economic growth and poverty alleviation.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for innovation and application of modern technology, increasing production and attracting enhanced foreign capital for stepping up economic growing. She also underlined the need for infrastructural development in this regard.

"Now we are on the threshold of new century. The twenty first century will be dominated paramountly by science and technology," she said calling for preparing the nation to face the challenge.

Presided over by IEB President and Vice Chancellor of the BUET Prof M Shahjahan, the inaugural function was also addressed by IEB honorary General Secretary Mohammad Ibrahim Miah, IEB Chittagong Centre Chairman AKM Fazlullah and honorary General Secretary Hafizur Rahman.

Asian Waterfowl Census begins in city today

By Staff Correspondent

The Ninth Asian Waterfowl Census begins at the lake of Dhaka Zoo today at 8 am.

The Nature Conservation Movement in collaboration with the Asian Wetland Bureau has organised the census.

Renowned fowl expert Dr Reza Khan will inaugurate the programme while Prof A K M Aminul Haque will be present on the occasion as special guest. Anisuzzaman Khan and S M A Rashid will present at the function the facts and figures of the fowl census conducted in the past years.

A team of experts led by Dr Reza Khan is now conducting a census of fowls at the country's islands and coastal belt in the southern part, said a press release adding similar census will also be held at the country's north-eastern region.

Ripon's photo show opens

The 3rd solo photography exhibition of S A Shahriar Ripon began at the Alliance Francaise in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof. A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury inaugurated the two-week long exhibition.

The exhibition will remain open to all from 3:30 pm to 8 pm everyday till January 22, barring Saturdays.

Rajshahi book fair ends

RAJSHAHI, Jan 8: State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haque said here today that book fair could play a vital role in flourishing literature and creating reading habit of the people in the country, reports BSS.

The state minister was addressing as the chief guest a public gathering at the Rajshahi City Collegiate High School ground in the concluding function of the national book day and Rajshahi 'book fair', arranged by the Rajshahi district administration.

Later, the state minister distributed prizes among the winners of patriotic song, poetry recitation and essay writing competition.

We all remember and miss you on your **Birthday**

Sofia Sultana

Children and Grandchildren

100 per cent textile dying project inaugurated

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman yesterday said, the present government firmly believes in providing the minimum food and clothing security to all citizens of the country, reports BSS.

He said the government is making efforts to ensure that security within the shortest possible time.

The minister was inaugurating a hundred per cent export oriented textile dying, finishing and printing project at the Dhaka Export Procession Zone in Savar.

Nevamullah Sabu, MP and Korean ambassador in Bangladesh Byun Jong-Gyu also spoke on the occasion.

Gooryoung industrial family of South Korea has invested in this textile project having 36 million yards production capacity per annum.

The foreign minister said, the government has drawn up a long-term export development strategy to implement the promotion of exportable items to foreign countries.

He said, "We need increased resources through joint venture for our economic development."

Rahman said the government has attached utmost importance to the export of garments.

Ziauddin and his newly-wed bride — Star photo

Experimental project initiated

Health and Family Welfare Ministry and ICDDR, B have jointly initiated an experimental project to improve family planning and MCH activities in the low performing divisions of the country, reports UNB.

The project based on findings of a survey conducted in Mirsarai thana, will be initially introduced in Chittagong district and then throughout the country in phases.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf recently visited the Mirsarai thana health complex to see the progress of the project.

Ziauddin weds

By Staff Correspondent

Lt Col (retd) M Ziauddin Bir Uttam, a former leader of the outlawed Sarbahara Party has entered wedlock with one Jahanara Begum of Chittagong.

Ziauddin, 55, who has been serving Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) as its Chairman since September 1993, married Jahanara at his official residence in Chittagong on December 30 at a simple function. Jahanara is now in her mid-30s.

Ziauddin joined Liberation War and was Commanding Officer of Dhaka garrison in 1972. He had to leave the army in 197[illegible] after writing a political article in an English weekly of Dhaka.

Soon after, he involved himself in the activities of the Sarbahara Party of Siraj Sikdar and became a prominent leader of that underground organisation.

Ziauddin remained actively associated with the party until 1988 when he left it due to difference of opinion with others. He has been leading a normal life in open since then and was appointed Chairman of the CDA afterwards.

Dutch envoy meets Sarwari

The Netherlands has shown eagerness in assisting the women and children's development programmes of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Ambassador of the Netherlands in Bangladesh Robert A Vornis expressed the eagerness while he was talking to the State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman at the latter's secretariat office in the city yesterday.

The state minister apprised the ambassador of the women and children issues including the preparations by Bangladesh to attend the World Conference on Women in Beijing in September this year.

The ambassador expressed satisfaction over the activities of the day-care centres for the children of working mothers especially female garment's workers set up in Dhaka by the Women and Children's Affairs Ministry.

BDR bicentennial gate opens

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury inaugurated the BDR bicentennial gate at Peelkhana near Dhanmondi Road No 2 in the city at noon yesterday. This gate was constructed by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) authority to mark the bicentennial ceremony of BDR, says a press release.

Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Major General Mohammad Anwar Hossain BP, psc, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs Fazlur Rahman Chowdhury and the senior officers of BDR were present on the occasion.

Sonali Bank of PM's Office computerised

The Sonali Bank branch of the Prime Minister's Office was computerised yesterday, a bank press release said, reports BSS.

Anni Yusuf, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister formally inaugurated the computer installation.

Under the computerisation programme, a number of important branches have already been computerised. Other important branches in the divisional cities are awaiting computerisation in near future.

City experiences a surprise rainfall

By Staff Correspondent

The capital Dhaka and some other northern districts of the country experienced a light unseasonal rainfall yesterday with the Met Office forecasting further light rain at several places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions today.

Rain occurred in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Bogra, Chuadanga, Rangpur and Dinajpur districts yesterday, which were within an unmeasurable limit except Dinajpur, where one millimeter rainfall was recorded.

The bite of the cold wave from the Himalayan region which gripped the country for the last one week apparently disappeared for the time being after yesterday's light shower, said Met Office sources. The country, particularly the northern region, may experience another spell of cold wave right after the next one or two rainy days, they added.

How long the next round of sweeping cold wave will keep continuing depends on the amount of rainfall, said the sources.

Country's highest maximum temperature 30 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda yesterday while the lowest minimum temperature was 9.2 degree Celsius recorded at Srimongal.

Current season's lowest temperature was recorded 4 degree Celsius on Wednesday last at Srimongal.

Licence system for VCP goes

The government has withdrawn licence system for video cassette 'player (VCP) from January 1, 1995, reports BSS.

Renewal of licences for all kinds of television, VCR and satellite television receivers (STVR) for the year 1995 began from January 1 and will continue till January 31, in all branches of Janata Bank, according to an official handout.

After the expiry of the date licences can be renewed on payment of surcharge with the renewal fee, the handout added.

The annual renewal fee for all kinds of residential black and white television is Tk 200, colour television Tk 400, VCR Tk 750, STVR for single connection Tk 2000 and up to 10 connections Tk 10,000.

All kinds of commercial licences expiring on December 31, 1994 can be renewed on payment of stipulated fees from the office of controller (licence) of Bangladesh Television, Rampura, the handout further said.

UNESCO officials meet Sircar

Assistant director-general of UNESCO, Paris, Dr W Volman and regional director of UNESCO, Bangkok, Hedayet Ahmed held a meeting with Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar at the latter's office in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters relating to education programme in Bangladesh with particular reference to the compulsory primary education and mass education programmes.

They also held discussion on setting up of a regional UNESCO office in Dhaka for nine densely populated countries of the world.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light rain may occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and in the regions of Kushtia and Jessore in the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office forecasts weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period.

It also predicted night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country and is likely to register a further drop in the next two days. Little change in the temperature is expected in the following week.

Country's lowest temperature 9.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Srimangal and the highest 30.0 degrees at Sitakunda.

The sun sets today at 5:28 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded yesterday in some major cities of the country are given below:

City	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	26.0	12.7	63	65
Chittagong	29.[illegible]	14.0	73	72
Cox's Bazar	28.0	16.0	65	70
Sylhet	25.5	12.4	68	70
Rajshahi	21.2	12.8	89	80
Rangpur	20.2	11.5	88	85
Dinajpur	19.8	10.8	78	82
Khulna	25.4	13.6	73	77
Barisal	25.6	11.6	13	82

Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
CHT Workshop Division, Rangamati

Notice of RHD Inviting Tender

1. Tender Notice No : 44(Forty four)/RED/1994-95 dt 27-12-94Eng/13-9-1401 Bang)
2. Name of work : Supplying of spare parts, Engine overhauling, machining, repairing, & denting Painting of Mitsubishi Jeep No. Chattagram Kha-2126(4-cylinder engine, Model J-24 Japan) of Khagrachhari Workshop Sub-Division under CHT Workshop Division, Rangamati during the year 1994-95.
3. Estimated Cost : Tk 1,30,205/-.
4. Earnest Money : Tk 2,605/-
5. Time allowed : 30(Thirty) days from the date of issue of workorder.
6. Eligibility of Contractor : 'A' to 'E' general category of Contractor of RHD, According to their financial limit & rule/ Authorised agent of manufacturer.
7. Name of Office for availability of document : Executive Engineer, RHD, Workshop Division, Rangamati/Chittagong/ Road Division, Rangamati & Sub-Divisional Engineer, Workshop Sub-Division, Khagrachhari up to 15-1-95 Eng/02-10-1401 Bangla.
8. Name of Officers to receipt tender bids : Superintending Engineer, RHD, Workshop Circle, Chittagong. Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Rangamati. Executive Engineer, RHD, Workshop Division, Rangamati. Executive Engineer, RHD, Workshop Division, Chittagong.
9. Last date of receipt Tender : 16-1-95Eng/03-10-1401 Bangla 12.00 Noon.
10. Date & time of opening bids : 16-1-95 Eng/03-10-1401 Bangla at 12-05 PM.

The tender will opening in present of interested tenderer (if any) presented by the concerned authority.

Md. Taoufiqul Islam Khan
Executive Engineer, RHD
CHT Workshop Division, Rangamati

DFP 283/5/1
G-50

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh

International Tender

(Subject to the approval by the Government)

Sealed International tenders are hereby invited on two envelope system for the supply and commissioning of 2(Two) Crash Fire and Rescue vehicles for use in International Airport from International reputed manufacturers/authorised suppliers. Tender must be submitted on or before 20th February, 1995 at 1200 hrs. in the Tender Box placed in Room No. 301, CAAB HQ or office of the Director, CEMSU, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

2. Tender papers will be available from the Office of P A to Chairman, P A to Member(Ops.), P A to Director (Finance), P A to Director, Z I A, Director (CEMSU) at the cost of Taka 2000/- (Two thousand non-refundable) at any time between 8 AM and 2.30 PM on all office days, after 25th January, 1995. No tender papers will be sold on the day of opening of tenders.

3. The bidders must submit two and half per cent ($2\frac{1}{2}$%) of quoted amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Chairman, CAAB from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh. The Authority reserves the right to cancel any tender or parts thereof without showing any reason whatsoever.

ARM Habibur Rahman
Wing Commander,
Director (ATS/Aero)
Civil Aviation Authority
of Bangladesh

D-35

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D-37

ADVANCED CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED
Registered Office : 9 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka - 1000

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

At the request of our valued shareholders the Directors of ACI Limited have decided to extend the last date of payment for the Rights Shares up to Saturday, 14 January 1995. All other conditions of the Rights Issue will remain unchanged.

By Order of the Board
Sd/-Sheema Huq
Company Secretary

Dated, 8 January 1995