

# Dhaka Day by Day

## The Way to Dusty Fair

by Samia Islam



The event that makes the month of February remarkable for us is the much-awaited book fair. It is the time when book-worms eagerly wait for the arrival of new lots. The writers too are highly excited about the products of their creative talents. Add to this the publishers' commercial calculations and zeal and there is a carnival atmosphere.

On the very first day this year the visitors were greeted with a meagre supply of books as is the norm at the beginning but there was one other not so unexpected exhibit this year — the amazing clouds of dust that kept visitors blinded in an opaque haze. The winds did their part with the loose top soil of the grounds and almost succeeded in making one think that the visit was a mistake. The event that comes only once a year is so looked forward to that it shouldn't be allowed to let the visitors down. When dodging the sudden gusts of wind becomes the priority instead of inspecting the array of books lying on the tables in all the spectacularly decorated stalls, it is indeed a pity.

The question that comes to mind then is the maintenance of the grounds not only during the month but around the year since this fair is not an after-thought of rather one of the remaining few certainties of life in the city. If the turf is properly taken care of round the year, it should be green enough to subdue the dust that is such a nuisance to the visitors of the fair.

It is understandable that the Bangla Academy grounds are kept busy during different occasions almost round the year but surely the authority could make it a point to prepare for the book fair some months in advance. When contacted the DG of Bangla Academy said

that there were people employed under contractual bindings for the specific purpose of sprinkling water on the premises after certain intervals and that keeping in mind the water shortages in the city, the public should be a little more tolerant since WASA has regulations about these matters and surely drinking water cannot or should not be wasted. A little dust never hurts anyone and there are far bigger problems that are not so apparent. He also compared the grounds with those of the trade fair and the Dhaka Boi Mela where the situation was quite unbearable. When reminded of the high expectations that people have about the Bangla Academy, he noted that it was a good sign. He further added that the municipality which had extended its help on previous occasions, has refrained from doing so this year. However the authority is handling the situation as best as it can and these days one can even see the WASA water tank waiting in all its splendour right in the middle of the premises and it seems by its mere presence the dust situation is coming under control.

True to their words the academy officials have tried their best to fight their shadowy foe with the help of WASA and the amount of dust has decreased somewhat. The fair-goers are now a trifle better off than their predecessors and the coming crowds can breathe on the fair grounds instead of breathing a sigh of relief when they come out. Sprinkling water on to the dusty plains is one answer to the problem and sometimes the weather helps when it rains but all of us will be happier if the meja grounds could be made enjoyable from the very first day of the occasion so that no one leaves with anything but books on their minds.

### BSEC produces products worth about Tk 138cr during July-Dec

Different industrial units under Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) produced finished products worth about Tk 138 crore during July to December 1994, reports UNB.

The figure is 49 per cent up than that of the 1993 corresponding period. Finished products worth about Tk 92 crore were produced during 1993 under the corporation.

This was disclosed at the 24th meeting of parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Industries held at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

The meeting was told that sales has increased by 39 per cent in July to December 1994 in comparison with the corresponding period of 1993. In 1993, the BSEC sold items worth about Tk 96 crore while it sold items worth Tk 134 crore in 1994.

Presided over by State Minister for Industries Lutfar Rahman Khan, who is also the chairman of the committee, the meeting was attended, among others, by Begum Shamsunnihar Khwaza Ashsanullah MP and Mia Abdullah Wazed MP. Industries Secretary A H M Abdul Hye, chairman of different corporations and senior officials were present.

### 50 fire stations to be set up at thana HQs: JS told

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday said that 20 new fire stations would be set up at different thana headquarters in the country, reports BSS.

Replying to a call attention notice moved by Mohammad Golam Rabbani (Joypurhat), the minister said when work on the project would be started the proposal of setting up one fire station at Panchbibi Thana under Joypurhat would be considered.

Rabbani said that in the vast area of Panchbibi thana there was no fire station and the only fire station located at Joypurhat which was 16-kilometer south of Panchbibi thana.

The minister assured the member that Panchbibi would be considered when the new project was adopted.



On the last day of the Street Drama Festival '95, performers of the Kushalib Nattya Sampradaya — a theatre troupe, staging the drama Mahabidya at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. The week-long theatrical gala was held under the aegis of the Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation. — Star photo

### Absence of permanent drama stage deplored

The need for immediate setting up of a permanent stage for drama performance was urgently felt at a discussion at the Bangla Academy premises in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The discussion was organised in connection with publication of a book on 'drama of one hundred years' by Bangla Academy. Noted playwrights Sayed Shamsul Huq and Rashid Haider compiled the book in two volumes with selection of 24 dramas written over the last one hundred years.

The discussion was the 7th in a series of programmes planned by Bangla Academy on various subjects on the occasion of the Anar Ekushey.

With famous actor, playwright and litterateur Prof Montazuddin Ahmad in the chair, the discussion was participated by famous actor and drama director Ataur Rahman and Prof Zubaida Gulshan Ara. Prof Montazuddin Ahmad in his presidential speech deplored the absence of a permanent drama stage in the country despite repeated requests to the governments as well as other concerned over the decades.

"Only Guide House auditorium and the Mahila Samity auditorium are not enough for the development of drama in Bangladesh," he said with an appeal to all concerned to help establish a permanent stage as early as possible.

### Time Extension

বিদ্যুৎ বিল নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করুন

The time for purchase and dropping of tenders for the work of installation, testing and commissioning of 210 MW Ghorasal Thermal Power Station Unit No. 6 Palash Narsingdi is hereby extended to 12-2-95 and 25-2-95 instead of 28-1-95 and 8-2-95 respectively as announced in the tender notice published earlier. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Biddul/Jan-94/6(5)/94-95  
DFP-2609-1/2  
G-200

Project Director  
210 MW Ghorasal Thermal Power  
Station, Unit-6, Ghorasal

Decorated in modern style

## Grand Opening

on 8th February '95  
Wednesday



Bata  
Renovation  
Sale

**Bata Shoe Store**  
218 New Elephant Road Dhaka

All types and designs of shoes for men, women, and children are available in Bangladesh's most modern shoe store. Fully air-conditioned. Select shoes of your own choice in a beautiful and modern ambience.

**10% Discount**  
Only on Opening Day



BATA/2372/95



The Ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh Sunthorn Vidhyameth called on Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam at latter's Commerce Ministry office yesterday. — PID photo

### Call to use appropriate indigenous technology

State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan yesterday called upon the people to use more appropriate indigenous technology to save the natural resources for the greater interest of the posterity, reports BSS.

He was distributing certificates of a training course on improved stove organised by Institute of Fuel Research and Development (IFRD) at Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) seminar room in the city.

Presided over by the chairman of BCSIR Dr M Waliuzzaman, the function was also addressed by secretary of science and technology Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, director of IFRD Dr Shapim Jahangir Ahmed, principal scientific officer of BCSIR Dr Hasan Rashid, member of BCSIR Dr M Yusuf.

### CMUJ demands 50 pc DA

CHITAGONG, Feb 7: The Chittagong Metropolitan Union of Journalists (CMUJ) today demanded constitution of the Fifth Wage Board for journalists and declaration of 50 per cent interim dearness allowances in view of the high cost of living, reports BSS.

The CMUJ at a general meeting here with its president Nazir Ahmad in the chair also called upon managements of newspapers to fully implement the Fourth Wage Board awards, if they had not done so as yet.

The meeting expressed its solidarity with the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) in its struggle for realisation of the demand for the Fifth Wage Board for journalists and fifty per cent DA.

The meeting expressed concern over the situation prevailing in the dailies New Nation and The Ittefaq and urged the managements of the two dailies to resolve their differences amicably.

The meeting also called for greater unity of journalists for realisation of their just demands.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by union general secretary Kashem Mahmud, organising secretary M Shah Newaj, members Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Abu Zafar Shamim and Peyar Muhammad.



Members of Drishti, a socio-cultural organisation, brought out a procession in the city yesterday marking its eighth founding anniversary. — Star photo

### Vaccination Day on Mar 16, Apr 20

The government has taken country wide vaccination programme under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, reports BSS.

The programme will continue uninterrupted till 1997. The government has further decided to observe 'vaccination day' on March 16 and April 20 next with an objective to make 'polio free Bangladesh'. Seminars, symposiums and workshops will be arranged by local initiatives on the occasion to create public awareness for making the programme a success.

### Journalists demand 5th wage board

Meetings held at different units of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday urged the government to immediately form fifth wage board for the working journalists and give 50 per cent of the basic as dearness allowance for the interim period with immediate effect, reports BSS.

At the unit meetings, part of the announced programmes of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and DUJ leaders, iterated their pledge to chalk out action programmes to press home their demands.

### Weather

## Dry spell likely

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country during the next 12 hours till 6:00 m today, reports UNB.

The Met Office forecasts night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius throughout the country during the period.

The sun sets today at 5:49 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:36 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded yesterday at some major cities and towns of the country were:

City/Town	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Chittagong	27.3	15.0	73	53
Rajshahi	26.3	08.5	84	51
Khulna	27.6	11.4	92	48
Barsal	27.0	12.0	77	48
Sylhet	26.5	12.3	84	50

### Poetry recital workshop

By Staff Correspondent

A two-month poetry recital workshop will begin from February 16 under the aegis of the Muktakantha Ahrity Academy, says a press release.

Interviews of the candidates willing to participate in this workshop will be taken on February 10 at the academy's office at 78/C Indira Road. Forms will be available at the 'Prakritojon', Shahbagh, academy office and TSC from 3 pm to 5 pm.

### Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Arif Ansari, the deputy chief engineer of the Bangladesh Insulator and Sanitary Ware Factory, will be held today after Asr prayers at 66, Pyari Das Road, Banglabazar in the city, says a press release.

Arif Ansari was killed in a road mishap at city's Kallyanpur area on Sunday last. Late Arif Ansari is the younger brother of Wase Ansari, a senior photojournalist of the Dainik Bangla.

The British Council presents

## The Martin Taylor Jazz Quartet in Concert

Friday 17 February 1995 7.30 pm  
Saturday 18 February 1995 7.30 pm  
at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Dhaka

Tickets: Tk 180/- available at the British Council Main, Gulshan and Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Library members only, available at the British Council.

Sunday 19 February 1995 7.30 pm  
at Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong

Tickets: Free of Charge available at the British Council and Hotel Agrabad.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### Finance and Accounting Manager

Beximco Group, one of the fastest growing conglomerates of the Country is seeking to recruit a Finance and Accounting Manager. Reporting to the COO and leading a team of professionals this position holder will have the overall responsibility of financial management and control of a sizeable project.

A Chartered or Cost & Management Accountant with 3-5 years management experience, preferably in a manufacturing organisation is desired. Knowledge and experience of use of computer systems will be preferred.

The position demands utmost integrity, strong interpersonal ability and excellent communication skills, both verbal and written. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a personality and temperament suited to a dynamic, highly motivated and participative work culture.

Besides an attractive compensation package, this position will provide exciting challenges and opportunities to make visible contributions to the development of the business in a work environment where professional achievement is closely linked to career advancement. Intending candidates are requested to send applications with complete bio-data and recent photograph addressed to Group Human Resource Director by February 14, 1995

**BEXIMCO**

17 Dhanmondi, Road No. 2, Dhaka-1205